



ESTABLISHED 1858.

Subscription: Fourpence a Week, Ten Shillings a Year.
Summer and Winter Numbers, 1/- per Copy

Remittances Payable to EDWARD HALES.

Postal Orders and Cheques to be crossed "MARTIN'S BANK (LIMITED)."

CHIEF OFFICES: 42 CANNON STREET, LONDON, E.C.

BRANCH OFFICES: MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY.

THIS JOURNAL is regularly supplied by subscription to the whole of the Members of FOURTEEN PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETIES in the British Empire.

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TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY FOR 1899 has now been despatched to all subscribers in Australasia, India, North and South America, the West Indies, and South Africa, and those for the Continent will follow next week. The home copies will be ready the first week in December, and will be despatched by the Globe Express (Limited), carriage paid. It is requested that those whose subscriptions expire with the current number will renew at once, as the DIARY cannot be despatched to them until they remit *ten shillings* to pay the subscription for the *C. & D.* from December 1, 1893, to November 30, 1899. Prompt renewal is desirable, as we anticipate a good demand for extra copies of the DIARY, the contents being specially valuable to the trade, apart from the legal and official information, which is exceptionally complete. The DIARY contains two original sections, referred to in the following extract from the DIARY preface:—

A collection of useful formulae and scientific memoranda begins on page 253. This is very varied in character, because the interests of *C. & D.* subscribers are varied, and there may be found something for everyone in the collection. The longest section of the DIARY is the last, beginning on page 491. This is a commentary and criticism of the British Pharmacopœia. We have endeavoured in this to keep trade requirements continually in view. We have epitomised the exceptionally numerous and complete criticisms on the B.P. which have appeared in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, but the greater part of the treatise has been expressly written for this DIARY, special attention being given to the manufacture of chemicals, the preparation of galenicals, and descriptions of commercial varieties of drugs and how they are imported. We are able to include some of the formulae which have been missed in the B.P.

The price of the DIARY to non-subscribers is 3s. 6d., and extra copies will be supplied to subscribers at 2s. 6d. as long as they are available. Those who require extra copies should order them as soon as possible from THE Publisher, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Summary.

BIRMINGHAM wants a university, and is to ask for a charter for one (p. 868).

PARTICULARS of the new Japanese tariff on drugs and chemicals are given on p. 834.

A REPRINT OF THE NEW B.P. has been issued, with half-a-dozen corrigenda (p. 867).

WE REVIEW the position of the camphor-market, showing that higher prices are likely (p. 555).

THE STUDENTS' CORNER COMPETITION, reported on p. 846, is a keen one, and instructive to all students.

MR. C. T. ASHMORE, a well known merchant of Mincing Lane, died last week. We give his portrait on p. 870.

WE have picked up some new ideas on x-rays at Monday evening's *conversazione* of the Röntgen Society (p. 847).

THE Therapeutics, &c., examination of the Institute of Chemistry has been held, and six F.I.C.'s have passed it (p. 866).

PROFESSOR STOCKMAN opened the session of the North British Branch on Wednesday evening with an address on "Arrow-poisons" (p. 872).

A NEW PHARMACY-LAW is proposed for Belgium. One of its purposes seems to be to make the sale of proprietary medicines illegal (p. 863).

THE staff of the Government Laboratory have presented some handsome gifts to Mr. Richard Bannister, their late Deputy-Principal (p. 859).

MR. E. W. LUCAS, one of the pharmaceutical examiners, has given School of Pharmacy students good advice about the examinations and assistants' experience abroad (p. 855).

CAMPHOR, COCAINE, AND IODIDES are dearer, quinine is stationary but firm, and borax is exceptionally strong. Otherwise there is not much startling in our trade report (p. 879).

THE BLACKBURN CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION are devoting themselves to missionary efforts among neighbouring towns in the hope of stirring up the Pharmaceutical Council to action (p. 857).

THE DEWSBURY CHEMISTS have agreed on a reply to Mr. Beecham's communication, and seem disposed not to sign any agreement which does not give them a better profit than he proposes (p. 857).

MR. JOHN BARCLAY has examined commercial samples of the new ext. belladon. liq. Their quality was considered deplorable by the B.P. debaters at the Midland Pharmaceutical Association (p. 853).

MR. ROBINSON, of Messrs. Hayes, Conyngham & Robinson (Limited), sharply criticises our last week's comments on the Irish High Court decision in the case of Conyngham v. Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (p. 847).

AN EMPLOYÉ AT BARKER'S STORES who chopped a bit off his finger, had it dressed in the drug-department, and subsequently suffered from gangrene, has obtained compensation through Mr. Justice Lawrence and a jury (p. 851).

AS A SUPPLEMENT to our report of the Spectacle-makers' Company's examination, we give an account of a similar examination conducted by the British Optical Company (p. 869), and separately comment on the whole subject (p. 864).

OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENT sends a report of the meeting of the General Association of French Pharmacists held last week to consider a new Pharmacy Bill. They resolved that company-pharmacy and proprietary medicines ought to be suppressed (p. 850).

ASSISTANTS AND APPRENTICES occupy the bulk of the Winter Session this week. Some practical topics were discussed by the Liverpool men, Arbroath lighthouses had plant-fertilisation to think about, a municipal election stirred the Aberdeen loons, and London and other assistants stuck to pharmacy (pp. 856-58).

Students' Corner.

CONDUCTED BY RICHARD J. MOSS, F.I.C., F.C.S.

REPORTS.

THE powder distributed for analysis last month contained 2 parts of copper sulphate, 2 parts of zinc sulphate, and 1 part of mercuric chloride.

Its calculated composition was:—

Hg ...	...	...	...	14.76
Cu ...	...	...	...	10.17
Zn ...	...	...	...	9.06
SO ₄ ...	...	...	...	28.77
Cl ...	...	...	...	5.24
H ₂ O ...	...	...	...	32.00

100.00

Traces of iron and calcium were present as impurities.

There were 76 packets of the powder issued to correspondents, and 46 reports of analyses were received in reply. All our correspondents detected copper and the sulphuric radicle, while only three failed to detect mercury and one chlorine; in the case of zinc there were fourteen failures. The substances erroneously reported as constituents of the powder were lead, arsenic, cadmium, nickel, manganese, aluminium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, ammonium, and phosphoric, boric, nitric, acetic, and citric acids.

Several students report that when ammonium sulphide was added as a group reagent in the regular course of the wet analysis no precipitate was obtained. We have tried a number of experiments under various conditions, such as might occur if the analyses were carelessly carried out, but in no case could we succeed in getting the result our correspondents record. It was not possible to remove all the zinc by precipitation with sulphuretted hydrogen, from a solution of the powder not acidulated with hydrochloric acid. A sufficient quantity of free acid was liberated from the copper and mercury salts to keep nearly all the zinc in solution. It was not possible to precipitate all the zinc as hydroxide by the use of an insufficient quantity of ammonia. Supposing the quantity of ammonia added to the filtrate from sulphuretted hydrogen to be insufficient to neutralise the free acid present, the subsequent addition of ammonium sulphide in small quantity would fail to yield a precipitate of zinc sulphide, but free sulphur would separate, and could not escape notice. On exposure to air and light the reagent known as ammonium sulphide deposits sulphur, and is transformed into ammonium thiosulphate and free ammonia. It is possible that some of our correspondents used a reagent of this kind.

It was most important in this analysis to detect zinc in the preliminary examination in the dry way, and this presented no difficulty. When a portion of the powder was heated on charcoal with sodium carbonate or a mixture of sodium carbonate and potassium cyanide, for the purpose of ascertaining whether any metal separated by reduction, an incrustation was observed to form on the charcoal around the fused mass. This incrustation was yellow while hot, and on cooling it became white. On moistening a portion with a cobalt salt, and again igniting it, the colour changed to green. These variations could only be due to zinc. The production of the incrustation of zinc oxide is easily explained. When a salt of zinc is fused on charcoal with sodium carbonate zinc is liberated in the metallic state, and, being readily volatilised, its vapour passes beyond the region of the reducing-gases to the outer part of the flame, where it comes in contact with oxygen. In this way zinc oxide is produced, and it deposits on the

charcoal outside reducing influences. This oxide is not volatile at blow-pipe temperatures, and it is only by reduction that heat can remove it from the charcoal. The experiment involves no special manipulative skill; with a little practice anybody may detect zinc by this means, and at the same time get valuable information respecting any other reducible metal that may be present.

PRIZES.

The First Prize for the best analysis has been awarded to FRANK GILES, 20 Connaught Road, Folkestone.

The Second Prize has been awarded to

FREDERICK G. GRIFFITHS, 194 Staveley Road, Wolverhampton.

MARKS AWARDED FOR ANALYSES.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Prizes.—The students to whom prizes are awarded are requested to write at once to the Publisher, naming the book they select, and stating how they wish it forwarded.

Any scientific book that is published at a price not greatly exceeding half a guinea may be taken as a first prize.

Any scientific book which is sold for about five shillings may be taken as a second prize.

Note.—All communications should include the names and addresses of the writers.

A. E. KING.—Operating upon about 5 grammes of the powder, the residue left failed to give the spectrum of potassium. You may have mistaken one of the red lines of calcium which occurred in the residue for that of potassium.

CORONIUM.—After treating the mixed sulphides with nitric acid you washed the insoluble residue and percolated with ammonium acetate. You reported the detection of a trace of lead in the filtrate from this operation, having precipitated it in the form of chromate. Your intention in using ammonium acetate was, of course, to dissolve lead sulphate. If this salt was present after the washing with water there must have been a notable quantity of the lead salt before washing, because it is appreciably soluble in water, a litre dissolving 0.04 gramme. You found, however, that the original powder dissolved readily and completely in water. This could not have been the case (bearing in mind the presence of sulphates) if lead had been present in such quantity as to admit of detection by the method you followed.

DIES.—Your conclusion that an acetate was present was based on insufficient evidence. If it had been present the powder ought to have smelt of acetic acid, as nearly all metallic acetates do. Sulphuric acid ought to have darkened in colour when warmed with the powder, and the aqueous solution ought to have given a red colour with ferric chloride. The vapour of hydrochloric or nitric acid in a dilute state is often mistaken for that of acetic acid.

G. T. H.—There was not a trace of manganese present. In heating the powder with sodium carbonate and an oxidising-agent it was a mistake to use charcoal as a support. Carbon at a high temperature is a powerful deoxidising agent. Moreover, the fused alkali salts would sink into the charcoal. When a reducible heavy metal is present platinum is not suitable for a support, because it forms an alloy with the metal. Porcelain answers the

purpose best, although it is attacked by the fused alkali salt; the production of the green manganate is not interfered with, and the green colour is very easily seen on the white support; a broken porcelain dish may conveniently be utilised for such a purpose.

COLEMAN.—If a nitrate had been present you ought to have observed a reddish gas when the powder was heated in an ignition-tube. It is not clear from your report what solution you employed for the detection of nitric acid; it is just possible that you may have used the sodium-carbonate solution which you had acidulated with nitric acid.

R. A. W.—See remarks to "Dies."

NIL DESPERANDUM.—There was no difficulty in applying the ferrous-sulphate test for nitric acid direct to the aqueous solution of the powder. There was no trace of brown colour between the two liquids. You must have mistaken the refraction-effects, due to the close proximity of two liquids of very different refractive index, for a colour-effect.

GRINGOIRE.—There was sufficient iron present to give a greyish tint to the zinc-sulphide precipitate. It is not clear whether you removed this iron in the form of hydroxide; if you did the dark colour of your zinc-sulphide precipitate must have been due to copper. It was necessary to pass sulphuretted hydrogen for a long time to precipitate the copper completely.

A. P. STROHMEYER.—It is possible that you precipitated some of the zinc as sulphide along with copper and mercury, if you omitted to acidulate the solution with a sufficiency of hydrochloric acid. This effect could only have occurred in a very dilute solution, because a good deal of free hydrochloric and sulphuric acid was liberated by the removal of the mercury and copper from solution.

TURPS.—The experiment that gave scales of metallic copper also yielded an incrustation on the charcoal around the fused mass. This deposit was yellow while hot and white on cooling, and consisted of zinc oxide. You must have used too little ammonium sulphide to precipitate all the zinc.

EUCLID.—Your method of tabulating the final results of the analysis answers the purpose very well. You should have detected the zinc in the preliminary examination by reduction on charcoal. See remarks to "Turps." The precipitate you attributed to magnesium was due to zinc.

JEGON.—An arsenite could not have been present in a powder soluble in water and containing copper sulphate.

HYDRARGYRUM.—See remarks to "Turps" and "Euclid."

S. R. B.—You omitted to note the colour of the precipitate produced by ammonium sulphide—a most important point. See remarks to "G. T. H."

HYPERICUM.—The fact of your obtaining a black precipitate with ammonium sulphide shows that you had not completely removed the copper or mercury. As this precipitate did not give a blue bead with borax, it must have been the mercury that was not completely precipitated.

T. H. MOORE.—Assuming the operation described in your paper to have been accurately carried out, the substances that gave what you call a green colour to the alcohol-flame were silver chloride and zinc sulphate. These salts could not produce the effect you describe. The presence of copper, especially as chloride, would account for the green.

SELENIUM.—The sublimate obtained by heating the powder in a reduction-tube with sodium carbonate was grey, not white. On rubbing this sublimate so as to cause the finely-divided particles to aggregate into larger masses, globules of metallic mercury could be distinguished.

GARÇON.—Your report was merely a description of a few tests. You failed to show that the powder could not contain anything except the substances detected.

ARO.—The precipitate you obtained with calcium chloride consisted of calcium sulphate. We have frequently pointed out that when sulphates are present in quantity a precipitate of calcium sulphate may be expected when calcium chloride is used as a reagent for the detection of organic acids. You can easily distinguish the organic salts from the inorganic salt by observing their behaviour when heated.

W. H. HURN.—You did not account for the white sublimate observed when the powder was heated in an ignition-tube. Zinc could not produce a sublimate under the conditions; moreover, the sublimate was crystalline.

YELLOW TEST.—You should send a much fuller report of the work done. You did not say what reactions led you to conclude a phosphate was present.

LEDOC.—You should have examined the crystalline sublimate obtained in the preliminary examination; very little consideration was required to devise a means of telling whether it was due to a compound of mercury, arsenic, or ammonium. It is easy to

prepare a similar mixture of salts, and by repeating your experiments and observing also the reactions of arsenic compounds and citrates you will find out how it was that you so completely misinterpreted the results observed. There is no way of learning how to observe and interpret experimental results except by actual trial.

JUVENIS.—You omitted to make a preliminary examination in the dry way. By means of such an examination, and with very little expenditure of time and material, it was possible to identify all the constituents of the mixture. With this information the separations required in the analysis by the wet way could be carried out with greater accuracy and precision than when the composition of the mixture was quite unknown.

THE WINTER TOURNAMENT.—This was the first competition in the six months' tournament which we announced last month. We are giving special prizes and certificates to the students who make the three best aggregates in this and the coming five competitions. It will be seen that the contest promises to be a very close one. There are twenty-four students who all have a first-class chance, and it is even possible that the winner may not be among them. As we intend to "place" the first ten month by month while the tournament lasts, we must ask competitors not to change their *noms de plume* during that period. We are glad to see new names in the list.

English News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

An X-ray Exhibition.

The President of the Röntgen Society and Mrs. C. Mansell Mouillon gave a *conversazione*, on November 21, at St. Martin's Town Hall, W.C. Sir Wm. Crookes, Sir John Dalrymple Hay, Sir Gervase Glyn, Sir F. and Lady Carden, Mr. Justice and Lady North, Professor Gladstone, Professor Silvanus Thompson, Mr. W. H. Preece, and Mr. A. A. Campbell Swinton were among the numerous company who attended. The exhibits were of an extremely interesting character. Mr. H. Cox was showing the portable x-ray set mentioned in the *C. & D.*, November 12, 1898, page 780, and a tube which glows pink, due to the presence of didymium in the glass. Dr. Maw had a selection of x-ray apparatus, including a compact cabinet containing the coil, accumulator, and all accessories, which when not in use occupies but little space. Mr. Wimshurst was explaining the advantages of his influence-machines for x-ray work by means of a 12-plate Wimshurst machine of 20 inches diameter. These machines require no batteries, are always ready for use, and are set in action by turning the handle. They are also said to give better x-ray effects than coils. Dr. Mackenzie Davidson exhibited some fine specimens of his work in a Wheatstone's stereoscope. Mr. Cossor was showing the osmium tubes which he makes for Dr. Mackenzie Davidson. In these tubes the anode of aluminium has a little lump of osmium metal set into its surface similar to the way jewels are set. For eye-work the sharpest possible definition is required, and only rays proceeding from a small spot are used. To get active rays under these conditions a very strong current is necessary, which immediately pierces anodes of platinum or iridium, but makes no impression on osmium. This use for osmium has resulted in an osmium-famine; there is none to be had at present in London. There were demonstrations of x-rays taking place in two screen-rooms, the smaller room being of medical cases. Under the gallery was a darkened space in which luminous tubes were exhibited, and Professor Silvanus P. Thompson was showing experiments with the Tesla oscillator upon vacuum-tubes. Two sheets of metal, each connected with a pole of the oscillator, were placed a yard apart. In the space between, a rapidly-alternating electric field is produced when the Tesla apparatus is working, and any vacuum-tube placed in this field exhibits luminous pheno-

mena, owing to the oscillating electric discharges induced in its interior. The walls of the Hall were covered with hundreds of radiographs, including some by Mr. F. H. Glew, which were perfect in definition.

Accident to a Chemist.

On Thursday, November 17, Mr. A. E. Hobbs, pharmaceutical chemist, of 33 Mount Pleasant, Tunbridge Wells, met with a serious accident. A lady, accompanied by her son, wished to purchase some metallic sodium for the lad to experiment with. Mr. Hobbs, foreseeing the danger of the experiment, refused to supply it, but offered to show them some burning sodium. Placing a mortar filled with warm water on the floor, he put a small piece of sodium in it. For a few moments the sodium failed to ignite, but suddenly it exploded and fragments were projected on to Mr. Hobbs's face, several of the pieces striking him in and around his eyes. Medical assistance was immediately obtained by a nurse who was in the pharmacy at the time of the accident. At first it was feared that the sight of the right eye was permanently injured, the left not being so badly hurt, but hopes are now entertained that the eyesight may be saved. Mr. Hobbs's condition, however, is still very grave. In consequence of this accident it has been decided to postpone the reception and dance which the Chemists' Association of the district intended to hold on December 8.

The Chemist Censured.

At an inquest held at Dowlais, on November 18, on the body of a child which had died from bronchial pneumonia, the mother stated that Dr. Thomas had attended deceased until about a fortnight before the death. She afterwards took the child to Mr. Rees, chemist, who made up some medicine for it. The jury expressed disapproval of Mr. Rees's action in prescribing.

A Chemist Imprisoned.

George Woodhouse Porrett, the Homerton chemist who, on November 15, at the North London Police Court, was bound over in a sum of 20*l.* for threatening his wife, was on November 18 again charged, on a warrant, at the same court, with assaulting her. After leaving the court at the conclusion of the previous case, prisoner went to his wife's house and said he was master there, and that if she did not like his treatment she could "clear out." The wife, however, claimed all that was in the house, including the stock of drugs, and therefore refused to leave. He afterwards threw a sewing-machine at her, but fortunately missed her, though the machine was smashed. He then left the house, but returned early in the morning, burst into the house, and only left when she called in the police. The Magistrate (Mr. Fordham) said he thought it was Mrs. Porrett's own fault, because after getting a separation order she had allowed prisoner to come back. Prisoner denied the charge *in toto*, but the Magistrate sent him to gaol for seven days and estranged his recognisances.

Fire.

A fire broke out suddenly just before 10 o'clock on the morning of November 19, at 9 and 11 St. Andrew Street, City, E.C., on the premises occupied by Messrs. H. Gilbertson & Sons (Limited), druggists' sundriesmen. The outbreak occurred in the basement of No. 11, and before it was subdued the ground and first floors were seriously damaged and much of the stock on the upper floors injured. The building at No. 9 was scarcely touched, however, and Messrs. Gilbertson & Sons intimate that they are perfectly in a condition to carry on business without hindrance, and orders will be executed as usual. The fire originated in some loose straw which became ignited, and one of the men who attempted to extinguish it was rendered unconscious by the dense smoke.

Spirit of Salts as a Rat-killer.

At Bow Street Police Court, on November 22, Elizabeth Gee was charged before Sir James Vaughan with attempting to commit suicide. On the evening before prisoner went to the chemist's shop at 24 Russell Street, Covent Garden (Messrs. W. Hooper & Co.), and was served with an 8-oz. bottle of carboic acid, which she said she wanted for dis-

infecting-purposes. She returned soon afterwards, and got sixpennyworth of spirit of salts. She went back presently with the empty bottle, and asked for more spirit of salts. The assistant (Hugh France) refused to supply her unless she said what she wanted the salts for. She said she wanted something to "do for" herself, but she appeared to be joking. She eventually said she wanted the spirit of salts to poison rats with. He gave her sixpennyworth, and she at once applied the bottle to her mouth, and commenced to drink the contents, but had not drunk more than a teaspoonful when the assistant snatched the bottle from her hand, and afterwards administered an emetic. In reply to Sir J. Vaughan, the chemist's assistant said spirit of salts was not a scheduled poison, but it was a corrosive poison, and the quantity supplied to her was sufficient to take away life. Prisoner was remanded for inquiries.

A Chemist Fined for Assault.

At the Bilston Police Court, on November 18, Richard Duckering, chemist, Castle Street, Roseville, Costley, was fined 5*l.*, with the alternative of a month in prison, for assaulting James Smith (16). The offence took place during the extraction of a tooth, and was alleged to be of an indecent nature. Defendant and his wife gave evidence, both denying the charge, Mrs. Duckering having been in and out the room while the boy was in it. The fine was paid.

Football.

Metropolitan College of Pharmacy F.C. v. Westminster College of Pharmacy F.C.—Played at Hackney Marshes, Homerton, on November 19, and resulted in a win for the "Metros" by 2 goals to *nil*.

Owens College Pharmaceuticals v. Clayton's Northern College of Pharmacy.—Played on Tuesday, November 22, on the ground of the former. The match ended in a draw of 3 goals each. Teams:—*Owens College*: Newton (goal), Woolley, Oldfield (backs), Stephens, Morton, Picknp (half-backs), Drummond, Higson, Patchett, Ryder, Kerfoot (forwards). *Northern College*: Harrison (goal), Billington, Dalton (backs), McIntyre, Crook, Harem (half-backs), Patison, Smithson, Hadfield, Phillips, Hughes (forwards).

Festivities.

The Tunnel Cricket Club (employés of D. & W. Gibbs Limited, Tunnel Soap-works, Wapping, E.) dined at the George Hotel, Tower Hill, on Saturday evening. The chair was taken by Mr. J. W. Perry, the Hon. Treasurer of the club, who, during the evening, proposed the toast of "The Firm," which met with an enthusiastic reception. He mentioned that Mr. Cecil Gibbs and Mr. Leonard Gibbs took great interest in their club, and through their influence they hoped to secure a private ground next year for their first eleven. Batting and bowling prizes were presented by the Chairman to Mr. G. Hackman and Mr. A. Weeden, in the first eleven, and to Mr. J. Lendeman and Mr. Higby, in the second eleven. Mr. Bush, the newly-elected captain of the first eleven, and Mr. Webb, Hon. Secretary, also received presents. Mr. T. Lamb afterwards proposed "The Club," and Mr. Webb, in responding, mentioned that the first cricket eleven had played seventeen matches during the season, of which they had won eleven, lost three, and drawn three; the second eleven had played sixteen, won six, lost six, and drawn four. The Football Club had played nineteen matches, of which they had won ten, lost six, and drawn three. After this the company had some music, and "Not so full as Brown," by Mr. Harry Hudson, was ringing in our reporter's ears as he walked along Tower Hill, where so many people "lost their heads" in days of yore.

The members of the Bournemouth Pharmaceutical Association met for dinner on the evening of November 16 at the Grand Hotel, Bournemouth, Mr. John Toone (President) in the chair. He was supported by most of the honourable fraternity of the district, including Messrs. G. E. Bridge, G. Hardwick (Hon. Secretary), E. Worth, S. P. Yates (Boscombe), H. Amore, J. E. Billson, W. Jones, J. A. Haynes (Parkstone), Ridley, Cumber (Winton), Aitken (Upper Parkstone), Thomas (Branksome), Pars, Spinney, H. Williams, J. H. Scampton, Bland, Botham, F. Rye, and G. Taylor (Westbourne). After the toast "The Queen," and that of "The Pharmaceutical Society," proposed by Mr. G. E. Bridge

"The Bournemouth Pharmaceutical Association" was proposed by Mr. E. Worth, who commented on the advantage of a local organisation, not only from a social point of view, but also for purposes of discussing trade-questions and of influencing proposed legislation. He thought that men employed in a common work, brought together at meetings of such an Association, could not fail to learn from each other. Mr. Toone, in reply, referred to the work the Association had recently done, a meeting being called to discuss the Poisons Bill, which resulted in a letter to the local member pointing out objections to the proposed measure. A good programme of music and recitation was provided by members and visitors, and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to Messrs. Bilson and Williams, the organisers of the dinner.

A highly-successful and well-patronised smoking-concert was given by the Aldersgate Cricket Club at the Champion Hotel, Aldersgate Street, on November 18. Mr. Mowbray T. Maw, who is captain of the club, presided, and was supported by his brother, Dr. Maw, Mr. T. C. Martin, and the heads of the various departments at No. 11. The vice-chair was filled by Mr. C. Martin, and the company numbered about a hundred and ninety. A long musical programme was excellently rendered by Messrs. A. Baker (who opened the proceedings with a pianoforte solo, entitled "Jugged Airs"), W. Ballantine (an efficient "bandolera" as well as a good batter), R. Debonnaire, W. Webster (a comedian with an "Amurrican" twang), L. Harewood, and W. H. Noel. Mr. W. Moir gave a "creepy" recitation, and Mr. H. Kemp exhibited the cinematograph. The last-named item was very popular, "The Return of the Guards" and the "Arrival of the Sirdar" showing clearly by their reception that Maw's were by no means lacking in patriotic enthusiasm. In the course of the evening a report of the season's doings was submitted by the club Secretary, Mr. T. Masters, who paid high tribute in a characteristic speech to the liberal support (both personally and pecuniarily) which the club receives from the firm, and which ensured the club's success and a handsome balance at the end of each season. During the past year twenty games had been played, of which the Aldersgate C.C. had won twelve. They had made 1,630 runs, an average of eighty-three per game, which was acclaimed "Not such a bad average, either." The Chairman then presented prizes to the most successful cricketers during the past year, the first prize in batting going to Mr. C. Jones, whom the Chairman spoke of as the "W. G. of the Aldersgate C.C." The other prize-winners were Messrs. Ballantine, Lawrence, Haylock, A. H. Masters, and Clay.

It took four of our sub-editors to attend the third annual concert of Messrs. Burgoyne, Burbidges & Co.'s Cricket Club on Wednesday evening. The necessity for four was not apparent to us until we saw the programme and learnt that 600 persons were present—persons connected with the drug-trade, chemists' assistants, store-dispensers, heads of departments in Metropolitan drug and sundries houses, town travellers—everybody in the London drug-trade who knew of the concert and had Wednesday evening to spare spent it in the great hall of Cannon Street Hotel. Mr. H. R. Arnold, one of the partners of the firm, was in the chair, and Mr. F. Allen was in the vice-chair. There were stewards to look after the artistes, the stage, the press, and the visitors. Fellows of the Horticultural Society had made the hall gay with flowers; it is a great hall, and has been the scene of many famous gatherings; it was there that the Society of Chemical Industry was entertained a year or two ago, but surely never before had so many of the drug-trade been gathered into it. There were Mr. Alfred Lambert (Lambert & Strong), Mr. Arnold Baiss (Baiss Brothers & Co.), Mr. Thomas Tyrer, Dr. Nelson Hake, Mr. Bryant (T. & H. Smith & Co.), Mr. T. Morson and Mr. Taubman (Morson & Sons), Mr. Charles Zimmermann, Mr. F. C. Stephens (May & Baker), Mr. Doumin (Jeancard, Gazan & Doumin), Mr. Green (Horner & Sons), Mr. C. Fuller, and some more, as guests. But the programme, with all deference to these guests, was the main thing. The artistes of the "Empire" seemed to have a night off, and a few amateur friends came to help them—for example, Mr. Felix Ruback, son of the Mark Lane oil-distiller, astonished the gathering by his splendid render-

ing of Algar's Fantasia in A Minor; and Master Sam Foster, a boy in knickers, awoke enthusiasm by a dainty violin solo. We do not propose to tell all that has been reported to us, because we question the sub-editorial ability to do an "Empire" entertainment properly; this at least, however, may we say—that the songs given by the ladies were enthusiastically encored, none heartier than those by Miss Ruby Verdi and Miss Minnie Cunningham, both of whom emphasised the points of their ditties by a few appropriate steps. On the serious side there was something masculine provided by Mr. Edgar Edwards, a splendid baritone; but the humorous was predominant, and it is difficult to say whether Mr. Charles King's Fregolian sketches, Mr. W. B. Berry's songs, Mr. Charles Conyers' sketches, or Mr. Herbert Campbell's selections from Verdi and Gounod (an unusual thing for Herbert to do, but it's there in black and white), gave most merriment. Which reminds us that in the course of the evening the health of Mr. Charles White, Indian ambassador to the firm, was enthusiastically drunk. There were twenty-five artistes altogether, and Mr. E. A. Hearn was the man who directed the affair. Clever thing for a cricket club to do.

Alleged Perjury in the Sponge-trade.

The Birmingham Magistrates had before them, on November 23, a charge of perjury against Sam. Marcuson, sponge-dealer, formerly of Snow Hill, Birmingham. The case was the outcome of proceedings brought in the Birmingham County Court on October 3, against Arthur Carr, chemist, of Church Gresley. On that occasion defendant sued Carr for 8*l.* 4*s.*, balance on three cases of sponges stated to have been supplied by Marcuson. The defence was that Marcuson sold only one case of sponges, which were paid for at the time of sale; and Marcuson then denied that a certain receipt was in his handwriting, which was the perjury now alleged. Mr. A. M. Carr was the chief witness for the prosecution, which was undertaken by the Treasury. Evidence having been given by Mr. Carr, and corroborated by his nephew (Mr. Clement Woods, Leeds), the Magistrates dismissed the case, the Chairman remarking that they did not think there was enough evidence to convict.

Irish News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

A Cork Cure.

A medical prescription read last week at the County Cork Board of Guardians, and which was signed by one of the dispensary officers, ordered a daily supply to the patient of 1 bottle of port wine and 1 pint of whisky. The ailment was certified to be a large abscess at the back of the neck.

The Cork Medicine-contract.

At a meeting of the Cork Board of Guardians held on November 17, the following letter was read from Messrs. Leslie & Co.:—

36 Bride Street Dublin, November 16, 1898.

Dear Sir,—Yours of the 15th to hand. Kindly convey to your Board our apology and regret for our letter of the 22nd ult. When next in the market for medicines, we shall have much pleasure in sending in our tender.

Yours very faithfully,

P. A. LESLIE & Co

The New B.P.

At a meeting of the Belfast Board of Guardians held on November 15, it was stated that the Local Government Board had called attention to the necessity for all medicines being prepared according to the new British Pharmacopœia. The Clerk stated that at the direction of the Board he had forwarded a copy of the L.G.B.'s letter to each of the medical officers and apothecaries in the Union. It was decided that no further action be taken in the matter.

Shipping-risks.

In the Recorder's Court, Belfast, last week, Messrs. Cantrell & Cochrane sued the Belfast Shipping Company for 2*l.* in respect of two barrels of ginger-ale which they had con-

tracted to carry from Belfast to Liverpool, but which had been dropped into the sea from the quay. After hearing evidence his Honour said there was no ground for action. The Shipping Company had only contracted to carry the property from quay to quay, and wilful negligence on their part had not been shown.

French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

THE LATEST NEWS.—At the Congress of Pharmacists, held here last Friday, one of the delegates from the South was good enough to remark that when he wants to know the latest news of what is going on in French pharmacy he consults *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST*, of London.

ASSISTANT PROFESSORSHIPS.—The French Ministry of Public Instruction has issued a notice to the effect that competitions will be held in Paris in April and May, 1899, for the selection of ten *agrégés* (assistant professors) in the superior schools of pharmacy of Paris, Montpellier, and Nancy in the selections of (1) physics, chemistry, and toxicology; (2) natural history and pharmacy. Six of the successful candidates will be attached to the Paris School, while the other towns will have two each.

THE FRANCO-ITALIAN TREATY OF COMMERCE.—On Monday afternoon last a new Treaty of Commerce was signed between the Italian Ambassador in Paris, on behalf of his Government, and M. Delcassé, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs. By this new arrangement the two countries are to be mutually placed on the minimum tariff, whereas for some years past the goods exchanged between the two countries have had to support the maximum tariff at the Custom Houses. The reductions apply to a variety of articles, including, of course, drugs and medicines of all kinds, perfumery, &c. It is generally thought that the French wholesale drug-trade will be a distinct gainer by the change.

PROPOSED TAX ON MINERAL WATERS.—M. Vacher intends to bring forward a motion before the Chamber of Deputies for the addition of the following paragraph to the budget for 1900:—"From January 1, 1899, a tax of 10c. per bottle will be levied on all mineral waters. This tax will be applied to all natural or artificial water sold, imported, or exported." M. Vacher estimates that this would mean a handsome addition to the French exchequer, and as it is essentially a tax levied more or less on well-to-do people, who are the principal consumers of mineral water, it is likely to find favour in the new Chamber, which is supposed to be inclined to support increased taxation of the middle and upper classes. Besides this, the tax is presented in a way the French are well used to, as, for instance, in the sale of matches, sugar, &c., which may almost be considered articles of necessity, and yet, from an English point of view, are fabulously high in price.

"A CONFRATERNAL ASSOCIATION of French pharmacists for giving help to the widow, children, father, and mother of deceased pharmacists" is a project presented by M. Léger, pharmacist at Chesnay, to the pharmacists' syndicate of Seine and Oise. This follows on as the result of a proposal made some time ago by M. Blavat, of Reims. The idea of the latter was to form a life assurance society amongst pharmacists in such a way as to give the heirs of any deceased member of such society a sum of 10,000f. (400*l.*). The proposal was that the adherents should only pay subscriptions in the event of a death occurring—for instance, if there were 1,000 members they would subscribe 10f. each, but certain difficulties stood in the way and the matter fell through. M. Léger's project is much on the same lines, only, as the heading indicates, its advantages are to be confined to the pharmacists' near relatives, and instead of receiving the capital of 400*l.* at death, the money would be set aside and distributed to the heirs according to their needs.

PARIS SOCIETY OF PHARMACY.—The November meeting of this Society was presided over by M. Ledié, the Vice-President. The Secretaries of two of the sub-committees

appointed to prepare suggestions for the revision of the French Codex read their reports. M. Tardieu was elected as a corresponding member, and the candidature of M. Lahache, military pharmacist at Constantine, Algeria, was favourably received; he will probably be elected at the next meeting. A third corresponding member in perspective is M. Jadin, assistant professor at the Montpellier School of Pharmacy, and chief pharmacist of the hospitals of that town. A letter was read from M. Apéry, of Constantinople, explaining what he considers to be a new therapeutic method. This consists in the use of the concentrated solar rays by means of a magnifying-glass for treating certain affections; he gives the name of heliotherapy to his method. M. Planchon exhibited some medicinal roots received by him from M. Leroux, of Teïès, Algeria, which have so far no classification; he promised to refer to the roots again after having had time to study them. Amongst the scientific papers read was one by M. Brissemoret, who has undertaken a critical study of a series of works published by Kossmann from 1875 to 1877 on soluble ferments to be met with in a certain number of vegetables employed in therapeutics. M. Brissemoret identifies them as oxydases, whereas Kossmann considered them as hydrolysant ferments. M. Marty showed a sample of hi-chlorhydrate of quinine (neutral hydrochloride). These crystals are anhydrous and soluble in a third of their weight of cold water, less soluble in alcohol; they contain 81.61 per cent. of quinine. M. Marty regards this salt as a stable compound, suitable for hypodermic use. It has been adopted for several years in the French Army, concurrently with the monochlorhydrate associated with analgesine, and appears to have been invariably successful.

French Pharmacists in Conference.

A MEETING of the General Association of French Pharmacists was held in the Salle des Conférences of the Paris School of Pharmacy on November 17. About one hundred members were present. The meeting was called to consider the project of the Pharmacy Act drawn up by a committee of the last Government. The first half-dozen articles were rapidly approved, including the suppression of the second-class diploma, which has already become law. The usual warm discussion took place on the "speciality" question, and M. Dénizé's motion, that the pharmacist should sell no goods except those bearing his own label, was voted by a majority of about twenty. In fact, the anti-patent party carried all before them, and the Parisian syndicate, who, while admitting the evil, are convinced that it is useless to ask Parliament to abolish specialities, were helpless in view of the exasperation occasioned by what is considered as the bad faith of the manufacturers in refusing the anti-cutting compromise lately proposed. This reunion was merely a preliminary meeting to the more important National Congress of French Pharmacists which was held the next day.

The General Congress held its first meeting at 9.30 A.M. on Friday, November 18. About 150 delegates were present, representing the votes of about 5,000 pharmacists. The last year's officers of the Congress were re-elected, M. Fortuné, of Beziers, in the chair, M. Demazières, of Paris, and M. Pujac as Vice-Presidents. M. Neveu, who had given in his resignation as Treasurer, was replaced by M. Vaudin, of Fécamp. M. Fortuné, with his high and somewhat bald forehead, his moustache and peaked beard, suggests a resemblance to Shakespeare. As a chairman he is conciliatory, but found some difficulty in keeping the meeting in order. As at the meeting of the General Association, the first seven articles were voted with but little discussion. M. Piédaln, of the Loiret, proposed that the number of pharmacists should be limited by competitive examination, the idea being that the most successful students at schools of pharmacy should have the first refusal of any pharmacy offered for sale. This proposal, which is not likely to have any effect, was duly voted, and the meeting dispersed for déjeuner.

In the afternoon, M. Limouzin Laplanche, the new Deputy of the Charente, and M. César Duval, a senator, both ex-pharmacists, were present. The former, in a short but not

particularly eloquent speech, apologised for his inability to attend the morning gathering, and for the fact that the afternoon session of the Chamber of Deputies would compel him to retire almost immediately. He assured the pharmacists present that he would always be ready to do his best for them in Parliament. M. César Duval spoke more at length. He reminded his hearers of his old connection with the profession, and remarked he had not forgotten the "confraternal bonds" that tied him to his fellow-pharmacists, whose claims he was always ready to support. But they must not expect too much. They had three great oppositions in Parliament—(1) the medical body, (2) the religious corporations, (3) the widespread prejudice against the pharmacist. So that the last Legislature had expired without result for pharmacy, except two reforms—the uniformity of the diploma, a change so natural that one could hardly understand why it had taken nearly one hundred years to bring it about; and more severe regulations regarding foreigners desiring to practise pharmacy in France. "You are assembled here," concluded the Senator, "to draft a modification of the law to suit the existing situation of the profession. I am not able to stay, called as I am elsewhere, like M. Limouzain, by another public duty. I will only say do not indulge in illusions. I have reminded you of your difficulties. The best counsel, the best proof of confraternity I can give you, is to advise you to restrict your claims to the measure of possibility. If you aim too high you will obtain nothing. I remain in sympathy with you, and my advice is inspired by a desire to be useful to you."

M. Hebert, of Dijon, advised his comrades to follow M. Duval's advice. They should not, he thought, propose a new law, but practically content themselves with amendments to the law of Germinal. The part of the Article 32 which forbade pharmacists to sell compound medicines without a doctor's prescription should be abolished. "Medicinal weight" and "simple drugs" should be defined, as well as "secret remedies." With these four or five alterations the law would be all one could desire.

M. César Duval did not entirely agree, and remarked that the Committee appointed by the last Parliament had introduced a paragraph forbidding the monopoly of a scientific or commercial denomination of a medicament. He went on to say that the draft-law of the Bill introduced last session had one great fault—viz., the paragraph allowing doctors to supply medicine in all "urgent" cases. The doctors would evidently be the only judges of the "urgency." In spite of objections on the part of the pharmacists on the Committee (he might cite the late Professor Bourgoin and himself), the medical majority inserted this clause. It was not carried, only because the dissolution of Parliament had intervened. The best course for pharmacists was now to draft a new Bill, and get it presented to the Chamber by a pharmacist Deputy as soon as possible. The Senator having withdrawn.

M. Fortuné read the first paragraph of article 8 of the 1897 Bill, which forbids partnership for pharmacy-trading except between pharmacists holding the needful diplomas. This met with no opposition. But when he read the second paragraph, demanding that in cases of company-pharmacy one of the "partners" or the responsible manager should be a qualified pharmacist, M. Boutes (Haute Garonne), with a rich Southern accent, read a lengthy text which Professor Dupuy, of Toulouse, proposed as a substitute. A lively discussion followed, many members objecting to certain phrases in M. Dupuy's proposed clause. Ultimately, M. Rièthe (President of the General Association) explained that in their yesterday's meeting the Association had voted this paragraph, merely exacting that limited companies for practising pharmacy should be formed among pharmacists only. It was useless to try to "remount the current" of accomplished facts; the Association took things as they found them, and voted, not what was desirable, but what was practical. This view was adopted.

Then followed the everlasting "speciality" question. M. Collin (Chairman of the Syndicate of Pharmacists of the Seine Department) proposed to admit the first portion of the clause in the 1897 Bill, which leaves the wholesale trade in simple drugs free to non-pharmacists. But he would revise the second clause to exact that all medicaments sold to retail pharmacists ready wrapped and sealed for sale to the

public should be submitted to the Codex Committee, who should have the right to give or refuse licences to sell them (by ten-year periods), and that all such articles should bear on the labels the proportions of the ingredients. M. Dénize, of Etampes, the anti-speciality crusader, proposed to replace this by a simple paragraph declaring that "the pharmacist, being essentially responsible, shall deliver no medicament or product to the public (serums and mineral waters excepted) under any other name, real, or label than his own." M. Merle did not combat M. Dénize's object, but did not believe it possible to suppress specialities. He quoted the fable about the bear, who, to kill a fly, let a paving-stone fall on his head. The fly was killed—so was the bear. A long, warm, and occasionally disorderly discussion ensued, in the course of which the meeting adopted as a definition of the speciality one suggested by M. Mareq—viz., "every medicament prepared and divided for retail sale and delivered sealed, destined to be sold to pharmacists for re-sale." "Now," said the Chairman, "we have the definition, we can vote on the principle." "No," said M. Rièthe, "we must not vote on principles. This is a matter of expediency. On principle, perhaps we should vote for the suppression of patents. It is no use to vote on beautiful illusions." General uproar interrupted the orator, who, however, insisted on concluding his speech. "We are all deputed by our syndicates to vote for or against, and let us vote," said the delegate from the Allier. "Audacity is necessary," shouted an ardent young delegate, quoting Danton's famous phrase: "Let us demand the abolition of the speciality." At last the vote was taken. The name of each syndicate and the number of votes to which it was entitled was called. The delegate answered "yes" or "no" to M. Dénize's motion. Of course the South voted a solid "yes," they were supported by a certain number of other departments, and one Paris Association (the "General Syndicate," formerly the Society of the Eleventh Arrondissement). Algiers, Montluçon, and the Loire Inférieure abstained. The North and Paris gave most of the negative votes. The result was:—For M. Dénize's motion, 275; against, 219; majority, 56; abstentions, 41. By this time darkness fell, and in the Rembrandtesque light of a few oil-lamps on the committee-table M. Fortuné called the meeting to order.

The lamps were lighted, and M. Fortuné asked the majority to put their ideas for suppressing patents into practical shape. MM. Vaudin and Marchal proposed that in the not unlikely case of M. Dénize's motion being rejected by the Parliamentary Committee the alternative text—viz., examination and ten years' licence of patents by the Codex Committee should be adopted. Objections were made to this. The Congress, it was urged, ought to have a definite, not an alternative, programme. The discussion again waxed warm, but the motion was finally adopted by the Congress. M. Viaud asked the Congress, before separating, to vote M. Collin's proposition that wholesale companies for the sale of pharmaceutical preparations should be exclusively composed of qualified pharmacists; this was done. It was decided that the committee charged to represent the Congress to Parliament should consist of the officers:—MM. Fortuné, Pujac, Collard, Vaudin, and Demazières, with the addition of the authors of the motions, MM. Dénize, Vaudin, Viaud. M. Demazières was thus the only Parisian included on the committee. He rose to give in his resignation as Vice-President of the Congress, feeling himself unwilling to join in the presentation of propositions to Parliament, of which the refusal was certain, and which were not in accordance with his ideas. After some discussion, his resignation was accepted, and consequently Paris pharmacists will be unrepresented on the deputation.

METRIC SYSTEM IN DENMARK.—A Bill has been brought into the Danish Diet recommending the introduction of the metric weights and measures, and the consensus of opinion is that it will become law. Danish merchants have for many years complained of their present system.

"SUNLIGHT SOAP" INJUNCTION.—Messrs. Lever Brothers have obtained an injunction from the United States Patent Commissioners against George R. Pasfield, of Milwaukee, who infringed their trade-mark by selling "American Sunlight" soap. The decision was partly based on the defendant's own admissions as to what he said and did.

South African News.

(From our own Correspondents.)

MR. F. W. C. THOMAS, a member of the Cape Pharmacy Board, has opened a branch pharmacy at Claremont, near the American Sanatorium.

CAPE AND NATAL VACCINE.—The Kimberley Medical Officer of Health has drawn the attention of his Board, and through it the Government, to the fact that of two dozen native children vaccinated by him with Grahamstown lymph not one took. On the other hand, Dr. Campbell, the Durban Medical Officer, is giving the borough police sergeants instructions how to vaccinate natives. The local newspapers report that they vaccinated thirty-five native police for a start, and the ceremony [? what about the vaccination] appears to have been a success.

UNQUALIFIED DENTISTRY.—At Port Elizabeth, on October 26, Valentine Kincaid Smith was fined 5*l.*, or in default fourteen days' imprisonment, for contravening the Colonial Pharmacy Act by practising as a dentist without being duly licensed. Information was laid by a licensed dental surgeon named Morgan, who had previously been in partnership with accused, but with whom he had quarrelled. The defence was that accused had not held himself out to be a qualified dentist. He was merely business manager at a dental institute, and employed a qualified dental-surgeon. A witness called for the prosecution admitted that an extraction of four teeth for him by the defendant had been a skilful and satisfactory operation. The Magistrate held, however, that an offence under the Act had been committed, but intimated that accused might satisfy himself by taking the matter to a higher court.

A TRANSVAAL PRESCRIBER.—A case which is exciting considerable attention in the Transvaal just now is that of Dr. Brennan, Principal of the Spear Medical & Chemical Company (Limited), of Johannesburg, who is charged with causing the death of a woman named Robinson, who lived at Rustenburg. The first hearing of the case took place at Johannesburg, on October 23, and evidence was then given that the woman had died with every symptom of strychnine-poisoning, immediately after taking the last dose of a tonic prescribed by the accused and dispensed at his establishment, and which consisted of a mixture of liquor arsenicalis and liquor strychnia. The prosecution suggest that the usual reaction had taken place with this mixture—a reaction of which both the prescriber and his dispenser seem to have been ignorant—the strychnine had been precipitated, and deceased had got an overdose of strychnia in the last teaspoonful. The evidence of both the State Analyst (Dr. Schmitz-Dumont) and Dr. Locvy (Public Analyst for Johannesburg) went to show that crystals of strychnia were found in the bottles which had contained the mixture, and an analysis of the sediment in one of the bottles by Dr. Locvy proved the presence of 5.6 milligrammes of strychnia in 8 drops of fluid, besides traces of arsenic. The further hearing of the case was adjourned until November 8, when the State Analyst was requested to present a report on the prescriptions. Defendant's bail was fixed at 1,000*l.*

New York Notes.

(By the Man from London.)

NAMES NOT COPYRIGHTED.—The following are names of some Indians of the Pillager tribe, and are not entered in the *C. & D.* competition for coining new words. The warriors are Mah-Che-Gab, May-Diva-We-Nind, Mah-Quah, Dunk-Ish-Kow, Bay-Pah-Mush, Bah-Dway-Wee, and Wah-Be-Stay-Steeve.

ANTITOXIN CURES LOCKJAW.—The antitoxin treatment for tetanus or lockjaw has proved successful in two cases recently, both in New Jersey. In one case the man had injured his fingers two months ago, and symptoms of tetanus developed three weeks ago. His condition becoming practically hopeless, the doctors injected antitoxin in the

abdomen, with the result that he is now discharged from the hospital as cured.

A QUEER DRINK.—Two young men were arrested the other afternoon who had made their way into the cellar of a drug-store on Broadway, New York. A clerk happened to go below and found the two drinking some kind of a mixture out of a dirty unused mortar. It transpired that the men had been drinking some whisky mixed with London-derry lithia-water in the old mortar without noticing that it contained some soap-shavings, cough-lozenges, grease-paint, a stray corn-plaster or two, and some ipecacuanha-powder. The men suffered so much from the effects of their queer drink as to need the services of an ambulance and a doctor.

COSMOPOLITAN-PHARMACY.—In no city in the world is the drug-trade represented by so many men of different nationalities as in New York. Almost within a stone's throw of each other I know of pharmacies run respectively by a Cuban, a German, an Englishman, an Irishman, an American, and a Spaniard; and in the lower-class districts. Poles, Italians, Russians, &c., hang out the sign of the pestle and mortar. But, as I have mentioned before, New York pharmacy is practically in the hands of Germans, and any movement which affects the retail drug business, as contemplated by the Shorter Hours League, must be backed by, or come from, the German Apotheker Society. I doubt whether the New York drug-clerk's hours of labour will be shortened for some years to come, if ever, as the competition of the large department-stores is getting keener every day, and the ordinary retailer of course suffers. There is at present a decided drop in salaries, and there are many drug-clerks out of employment. A Fifth Avenue pharmacist told me the other day he had no need to advertise when he wanted a clerk, as two or three called every day seeking work.

Trade-Marks Applied for.

Anyone who objects to the registration of a trade-mark must address the Comptroller-General, Patent Office, Chancery Lane, W.C., within a month of the date of publication.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," November 9, 1898.)

Design of three horseshoes with heads of animals between; for medicine for horses and cattle. By E. F. Knifton, 17 Hertford Road, Kingsland, manufacturers and vendors of horse and cattle medicines. 216,884.

"AZOL"; for a medicine for animals. By R. Edmondson, St. Helens, Lancs, veterinary surgeon. 216,895

Combination of devices and signature (the essential particulars); for chemical-substances for use in medicine and pharmacy. By G. Allen & Co., Amptill, herb-growers and distillers, and manufacturing chemists. 215,817.

Device (the essential particular) of a knight in armour ("Dried Soap") conquering another knight ("Moist Soap"); for perfumed soap. By the Savonnerie Maubert, Lille, soap-makers. 217,422.

Combination of devices (the essential particular) and wording for a carbolic disinfecting-soap. By J. Crosfield & Sons (Limited), Warrington, soap-manufacturers. 214,895.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," November 16, 1898.)

Design of label, and the word "Firroplit" (the essential particular); for a composition for preventing and removing the incrustation in steam boilers. By Smith & Co. (Limited), Bristol, merchants. 216,696.

Design of hand grasping a dagger and encircled by snakes; for chemical-substances for use in medicine and pharmacy. By L. W. Gans, Frankfort-on-Main, manufacturing chemist. 215,737.

"CORYL"; for an anæsthetic. By Brignonnet et Naville, Seino manufacturers. 217,776.

"VINEDROP"; for mineral and aerated waters (natural and artificial). By G. W. J. Allen, Birmingham, mineral-water manufacturer. 217,376.

Picture of a swan; for perfumed soap. By Lever Brothers, (Limited), Port Sunlight, soap manufacturers. 217,215.

Device of disc with conical top; for all goods included in Class 3 By Burroughs, Welleome & Co., Snow Hill Buildings, Holborn Viaduct, E.C., manufacturing chemists. 215,167.

The Winter Session.

Midland Pharmaceutical Association.

A MEETING of this Association was held at Mason College, Birmingham, on November 17, under the presidency of Mr. J. Poole. A paper was read, entitled

THE NEW STANDARDS OF THE 1893 PHARMACOPOEIA, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE BELLADONNA PREPARATIONS.

By John Barclay, B.Sc., F.C.S.

The paper was largely devoted to calling attention to the alterations which have been made in the B.P. standards, especially of chemicals. Most of the points have already been mentioned in this journal. They dealt with carbolic, citric, and aromatic sulphuric acid, purified ether, absolute alcohol, wood-charcoal [ash raised from 2 per cent. to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.], chloroform, saffron, elaterium, and ipecac. In regard to the last, the author said the process of preparing the fluid-extract is somewhat tedious, but the long-continued evaporation of an acid alkaloidal solution involved in the 1835 process has been done away with, and undoubtedly a more perfect removal of alkaloid is ensured. Ipecac. wine, made from the fluid extract, now contains $\frac{1}{10}$ per cent. of alkaloid, and this also is a decided improvement. It seems a pity that no standard for alkaloid in the root itself has been fixed, for the powdered drug is, and will no doubt continue to be, largely used.

Nux Vomica.—It is greatly questionable whether the liquid extract is in any way an improvement on the old solid preparation of the 1835 Pharmacopoeia. The use of large quantities of rectified spirit is necessary, and the difficult recovery of this from the marcs must under any circumstances mean a loss.

Opium.—The editorial notes which appeared in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST of October 20, on the subject of the new opium and its preparations, showed very clearly what a hopeless jumble is the result of the recommendations of the Board. The low limit of morphia allowed—viz., $7\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. in the dry—in an opium from which tincture and extract may be made (designed, it is said, with the idea of bringing into official use Indian opiums) produces some peculiar results. For instance, the Pharmacopoeia states that $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of extract made from 1 lb. of this class of opium shall contain 20 per cent. of morphia, which of course is impossible, and adds, in an endeavour to put the matter right, that stronger extracts may be mixed with weak ones to obtain the right strength. Then, again, to make a tincture, any opium containing $7\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. and upwards of morphia may be used, thus allowing an enormous variation in the amount of extractive present in the tincture. The further statement that for purposes other than for making extract and tincture a 10-per-cent. opium must be used implies, of course, that morphia cannot be made from any drug deviating from that standard, which is also absurd.

Essiccated Sulphate of Iron.—The standard has been reduced from at least 97.5 per cent. $\text{FeSO}_4\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ to $92\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Mr. Barclay could not see why this change had been made: it appears to be unnecessary, for he has never experienced difficulty in obtaining a salt up to the old standard if good sulphate were used for drying.

Mr. Barclay also briefly commented on reduced iron, glycerin, solution of hydrogen peroxide, oil of cinnamon, pepsin, acid tartrate of potassium, sulphate of quinine, sodium nitrite, and solution of ethyl nitrite, the remarks being mainly epitomes of the B.P. monographs, to which were added some observations from the *C. & D.* and *Ph. J.*

Precipitated Sulphur.—The synonym "milk of sulphur" is a very doubtful innovation, since the old milk of sulphur containing sulphate of lime is still in favour as a medicine in some quarters, and must now cease to exist under its old name.

Syrup of Iodide of Iron.—The assay method, proposed by Swinton in the *C. & D.* of May 21, is no doubt much better than the official method, as also is that given in the U.S.P.

Belladonna.—That some standardisation of belladonna-preparations was urgently necessary goes without saying, but in the author's opinion the method adopted is far from

satisfactory. A liquid extract prepared by repercolation is made a basis for standardising all the galenicals. This liquid has, of course, to be prepared with rectified spirit, the use of which, whether on the small or large scale, means loss, especially when the removal of unused portions of it from relatively large quantities of marc has to be undertaken. The method which the author advocated—viz., the use of a solid alcoholic root-extract as a basis for standardisation—would have no such drawback. It is to be noted further that to make a methylated liniment of belladonna under the new regulations, a fluid extract containing rectified spirit has to be used. This also is unsatisfactory. With regard to the strength of the preparations and the standards chosen, it is to be noted that the new tincture is probably quite double the strength of an average tincture made according to the old Pharmacopoeia, whilst the dose is only slightly altered. The liniment, too, will be stronger than that to which we have been accustomed, and no note of this is made in the Pharmacopoeia. Again, the variable and most unsatisfactory green extract is allowed to remain, no method of standardisation being given. This preparation is no doubt still largely used, and will continue to be used, in spite of the introduction of the 1-per-cent. alcoholic preparation intended to supersede it.

Thinking it would be interesting to ascertain how the requirements of the Pharmacopoeia with regard to belladonna-preparations were being carried out, Mr. Barclay obtained seven samples of the liquid extract from various first-class wholesale drug-houses, and the following table gives the results of his examination of them:—

No.	S.G. at 15.5° C.	Total Solids per Cent., Dried at 100° C.	Alkaloid per Cent., by Weight	Alkaloid per Cent., by Titration	Absolute Alcohol per Cent., by Volume	Relative Depth of Colour
1	0.9180	14.07	0.801	0.772	72.08	144
2	0.8685	6.21	0.829	0.817	82.64	100
3	0.9190	13.00	0.710	0.698	73.40	163
4	0.9760	23.41	0.709	0.660	64.38	2,530
5	0.9610	20.09	0.741	0.706	67.62	225
6	0.8775	8.73	0.816	0.816	82.64	125
7	0.9090	6.50	0.778	0.733	69.80	370

The official method for estimating the alkaloid was adopted in each case. The points to be noted in the table are variation amongst the samples (1) in the amount of solid matter present, (2) in the amount of alkaloid, (3) in the amount of alcohol, (4) in colour.

It might be expected that the samples having the largest percentage of solids would show correspondingly high proportions of alkaloid, but this is not the case, nor does the relative depth of colour vary with the amount of extractive present, as also might be anticipated. Samples 4 and 5 are remarkable for the very large proportion of snaggy extractive matter present in them, and it is difficult to believe that the whole of this can have been derived from belladonna-root. It is further noticeable that, although the extractive matter present in these two samples (4 and 5) is approximately equal, No. 4 is more than ten times darker in colour than No. 5.

The estimation of the relative colours of the samples was arrived at by the use of a solution of burnt sugar in water, so much of this latter being added to seven tubes containing water as would give colours matching the various samples.

The variation in the amount of extractive matter and in colour must have the effect of making liniment, tincture, &c. vary in the same ratio—a state of things which might have been avoided if the standard extract had been of the solid class.

With regard to alkaloid, the lowest percentage found is 0.66, the highest 0.81—a much greater variation than should be permissible.

The amount of alcohol present, too, varies more than it should, and samples 2 and 6 have evidently been prepared from an alcohol stronger than that required by the Pharmacopoeia. Here, again, is variation which the use of a solid extract would obviate.

Turning to the question of general alkaloidal standardisation, the author regretted that the opportunity of obtaining reliable preparations of many powerful drugs had been lost. The tinctures of aconite, colchicum, conium, henbane, jaborandi, lobelia, stramonium, and gelsemium are still allowed to vary according to the varying percentage of alkaloid present in the drugs from which they are prepared. Considering the large amount of work which has been done on alkaloidal standardisation of tinctures by Farr and Wright and others during the last few years, it is difficult to explain why the new Pharmacopœia has not availed itself of it. Many other important tinctures of the non-alkaloidal class, such as those of Indian hemp, foxglove, sumbul, ginger, and strophanthus, should also, in his opinion, have had standards fixed. In these days, continued Mr. Barclay, when the officials under the Food and Drugs Act seize such articles as tincture of rhubarb, senna, &c., and, finding a deficiency in total extractive, bring trouble upon the chemist, surely it is necessary that the pharmacist and all concerned should be guided as to the requirements of the Pharmacopœia to the greatest possible extent. As the matter at present stands, a Government [Public] analyst may state that tincture of rhubarb shall contain a certain percentage of extractive matter. It is in vain that a magistrate before whom a supposed offending pharmacist is brought asks what is the standard of the Pharmacopœia. There is none, and whether the analyst be right or wrong, it is more than likely that his statement is taken as final. There is no doubt that our knowledge of the chemistry of drugs must be much further extended before thoroughly satisfactory standards can be fixed for the galenical preparations, but, until that time comes, it seems to be necessary that such knowledge as we have should be made use of, and it can scarcely be denied that the compilers of the new Pharmacopœia have not made the most of their opportunities.

THE DISCUSSION.

Mr. A. W. GERRARD opened the discussion. He congratulated Mr. Barclay on his paper. Speaking generally with reference to the new B.P., Mr. Gerrard had little hesitation in saying that it was a distinct advance, from a pharmaceutical point of view, on any previous one. Many pharmacists had been brought into association with members of the medical profession in the preparation of the work, and he hoped in the future they would take a still larger part. Dealing with the subject of standardisation, he said he did not complain of it as a whole. He approved of it where it could be carried out in a thoroughly satisfactory manner, but one tendency of standardisation was to throw pharmacy proper out of the hands of the retailer into the hands of the wholesaler. Personally, he would prefer to see a very much larger number of retail manufacturers throughout the country. Again, they knew that drugs varied very considerably—thus, belladonna-root might give an extract containing 0.5 per cent. of alkaloids, and they might have another specimen which would contain 1 per cent. The extractive in both cases was the same. Suppose they had standardisation of these two extracts. In the one case they would have to add considerable foreign matter, and in the other they required none. The result was variation in the appearance of the product, and the chemist and druggist who had to deal with variations in the drugs he dispensed knew the difficulty of the position. He looked for uniformity in the preparation. He could not always get it, but they should avoid getting away too much from the natural towards the artificial. If they could get natural products which would give alkaloids within a certain range, and made preparations from these, they were on as safe ground in the manufacture of the products as they would be if they attempted standardisation from drugs which varied very widely. Belladonna-plaster was a preparation which had varied very much. It was a common thing in his hospital career to hear complaints of the irritating effects produced by the application of belladonna. This was due in many cases to the fact that there was a large excess of alkaloid in the plaster. Looking at the figures in Mr. Barclay's table, he felt that there certainly should not be so great variation in alkaloidal percentages as 81 and 66. The difference in sp. gr. he did not attach so much importance to; it would be accounted for by the amount of matter which had to be added to bring the preparation up to the alkaloidal strength.

With regard to phenol, it was a wise change in the B.P. to improve the quality of the article by altering the melting-point and, of course, increasing its solubility; and there was no better test for the pharmacist in connection with phenol than the proportion in which it is soluble in water. The alteration of the sp. gr. and variety of ethers was also very essential; they must be careful as to the quality of ether produced in the market. He had dissolved a considerable quantity of iodoform in ether, and found that not a few samples liberated free iodine, which greatly interfered with the purpose for which he required the solution, and he suggested this as a simple means for demonstrating the purity of ether. These impurities might be got rid of by the process recommended by Professor Ramsay. Mr. Gerrard proceeded to speak about saffron, pepsin, and milk of sulphur. As to the last, he said, if a person asked for a certain article, and preferred to have it with sulphate of lime in it, he was entitled to have it; but if the chemist pointed out to the customer that in one case he was buying pure sulphur, and that in the other the mixture contained sulphate of lime, he would generally prefer the pure to the impure product. In this respect the public wanted educating.

Mr. SPILSBURY did not advocate the preparation of tinctures from liquid extracts, because the preparations do not represent the constituents of the drugs as efficiently as tinctures made direct. It was a prevalent opinion especially with regard to cinchona and nux vomica, that the physiological effects of a well-prepared tincture were more satisfactory in certain cases than those produced by the alkaloids alone. The process for the liquid extract of belladonna he considered to be incomplete and wasteful. The presence of an excessive proportion of the inorganic constituents in the root would account for excessive total solids. He had prepared a standardised tincture direct from the root, and found it yielded 70 per cent. more solids, and its physical characters were more satisfactory, than one made from the liquid extract. He could not conceive why the tincture of nux vomica had been increased in strength whilst the dose remained practically the same. Toxic effects had already been reported to him from its use, and he thought that for security in prescribing and dispensing it would have been preferable to decrease the strength and increase the dose. The instructions for testing balsam of tolu he also considered somewhat indefinite. No percentage requirement was quoted, and the residue from the bisulphide-of-carbon solution remained an unknown quantity; and yet the Pharmacopœia added that it should require not less than one-third its weight of potassium hydroxide for its saponification. He thought it was not advisable to prematurely extend the number of standardised tinctures.

Mr. F. H. ALCOCK said that the battle of standards would go on until the end of time. No doubt the Pharmacopœia was a little in advance of the retail pharmacist, and this was throwing the difficulties on the wholesale house, but the retailer ought to be able to make his own tincture of opium, otherwise he became a huckster. The figures in the table quoted by Mr. Barclay called for serious attention. These, he took it, were the products of houses of repute, and there was a most remarkable difference which should not obtain in preparations of the kind. Some of the B.P. modes of determining the standards were open to criticism. For instance, the method of assaying extract of ipecacuanha would in inexperienced hands be a failure. Again, the Pharmacopœia ordered large quantities for assay. In these days of good balances accurate results could be obtained with 1 c.c. where the B.P. ordered 20 c.c. It should not go forth that the official solution of hyd. perox. was of 20 vol. strength, because half the oxygen obtained was produced by the test used.

Mr. H. S. SHORTHOUSE thought the variation in liquid extract of belladonna was deplorable, and asked Mr. Barclay if he thought this was due to errors in standardisation, or had they been carelessly prepared? He was not inclined to agree with Mr. Spilbury that the amount found by different operators differed considerably, because he had frequently made determinations against other analysts and had invariably obtained concordant results. He thought it would be to the interests of pharmacy if such a preparation as fluid extract of belladonna were made more constant in colour, because many people were apt to judge the strength of a

preparation from the colour. It was practically impossible for the majority of retail pharmacists to prepare their own standardised preparations, as the process required considerable time. Mr. Shorthouse also expressed the opinion that the B.P. standards for syrup of iodide of iron were unsatisfactory.

Mr. PERRY disagreed with the idea that the Pharmacopœia was in advance of the pharmacist. It was rather a low view to take to say that the B.P. should be boiled down to the comprehension of uneducated men. Neither did he agree with the view that standardisation prevented the retail pharmacist from making his own preparations, and in any case they could not wait until they considered the retail pharmacist was capable before they made an advance in pharmacy. With regard to nux vomica, Mr. Alcock called attention to this subject a few weeks back in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, and his experience coincided with that of Mr. Alcock. Under the new B.P., the tincture formed from nux vomica was a most inelegant preparation compared with what it was previously. When diluted with water it gave an opaque solution, and was more acrid to the taste.

Mr. BARCLAY, in reply, said he thought that, even if the use of standardised preparations should place the manufacture of galenicals more in the hands of the wholesale trade, standardisation was both desirable and necessary. It would be absurd to arrest the progress of scientific pharmacy because of the incompetence of retailers to perform the processes required by the Pharmacopœia. He did not think retailers should find the difficulties alluded to by Mr. Gerrard and Mr. Spilsbury, since, if a man passed his Minor, he ought to be well able to undertake all the work required. Referring to Mr. Spilsbury's experiment with tincture of belladonna made direct from the root, instead of from liquid extract, he pointed out that the test would scarcely be valuable unless both tincture and liquid extract were made from the same sample of root. He was surprised that Mr. Alcock thought the new Pharmacopœia in advance of the pharmacist, but agreed with him that the process of assaying liquid extract of ipecacuanha was expensive.

Sheffield Pharmaceutical and Chemical Society.

At the meeting held on November 17, Mr. G. Squire (President) in the chair, the business was of a somewhat formal character, and consisted chiefly of the confirmation of the minutes, and the admission of several new members and associates. The meeting resolved itself into a smoking-concert arranged for the benefit of the younger members. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the excellent programme that had been prepared for the session, and said it was one of the best they had had for many years. Arrangements had been made for another ball, and it had been decided to limit the number of tickets issued, so that tickets should be secured as early as possible. A high-class musical programme was gone through, the principal performers being Mr. J. Austen, Mr. Hardcastle, Mr. R. C. Honev, Mr. Percival, Mr. N. C. Newton, Mr. Brown, and Mr. F. Oxley.

School of Pharmacy Students' Association.

A NEW session was inaugurated at 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C., on Friday, November 18, with an address by Mr. E. W. Lucas, the President (Professor Greenish, F.I.C.) in the chair. It has been the custom for many years for the address to partake more or less of the nature of a homily. Mr. LUCAS, however, was happy in departing from the usual custom by chatting in a humorous way to the students instead of reading a formal address. At the outset he compared the present curriculum with that which was in vogue in his student-days (1887-88), when the Minor and Major courses were both crowded into one session. He considered that students now worked under better conditions, especially in regard to the extension of their course of study, and advocated the study of field-botany in the country during the three months' vacation which now follows the Minor course. Passing to the subject of

EXAMINATIONS

Mr. Lucas described two classes of candidates who entered an examination-room with a feeling of "funkiness." The first class comprises men who know they are not prepared, and rely solely on the hope of getting an easy and fortunate succession of questions. These are the men who grumble, when they fail, at examiners, the system, and everybody except themselves. The other form of "funk" is due to nervousness, and is found in men who, though they have gone through a course which is considered adequate, and have worked hard throughout, are yet alive to the fact that an unlucky question may bring them to grief. Mr. Lucas spoke reassuringly of the treatment which all candidates may expect at the hands of the examiners, and went on to the subject of questions which are not in the syllabus. He laid stress on the fact that a candidate's answer often suggests the next question, and when that leads beyond the matter required by the syllabus the candidate may feel sure that the examiner will not expect of him more than is right. At the same time it should be borne in mind that there is frequently some difficulty in knowing where the syllabus begins and where it ends; but though during every examination there are probably questions asked which are outside the syllabus in every subject, yet the non-answering of these need cause the candidate no apprehensions. With regard to the

NEW PHARMACOPŒIA,

upon which, said Mr. Lucas, candidates would be examined on and after January next, there could be no doubt that from the student's point of view it is a better manual than its predecessor. Greater uniformity of doses and improved descriptions of drugs cannot fail to prove of service to the student. But he must warn his hearers against trying to learn their B.P. by heart. The attempt is impossible of accomplishment, and the result disastrous. No pharmacist, in making a tincture or a pill-mass, would think of making it from memory. What was wanted, however, was a close acquaintance with the more potent drugs—*e.g.*, belladonna and opium—their preparations and doses. No examiner would require to know what were the constituents of Gregory's powder or confection of senna, but he might reasonably expect to be told without hesitation the dose of tincture of nux vomica, or of the preparations of ergot. Then, again, a knowledge of the tests of the Pharmacopœia is essential to the pharmacist of to-day. Year by year the manufacture of galenicals falls more into the hands of wholesalers, and the pharmacist needs to know how to test the drugs he buys ready prepared for use. Otherwise he places himself in the awkward position of being liable to a conviction for selling substances not of the nature and quality demanded by the purchaser. Mr. Lucas finally dealt with

THE FUTURE OF THE STUDENT

after he has passed his Minor, or, preferably, his Major examination. Unquestionably it was good for him to go abroad. Many go to Paris, Rome, the Riviera, and such centres of fashion, and learn how foreign prescriptions are dispensed better than they can in England. Besides this they pick up a continental language, gain a wider knowledge of men and things, and a large fund of general information that cannot be acquired at home. Others prefer to go further afield—to India, China, or the Cape. From his own experience in China he considered the step a wise one, especially in the case of those who might not again have the opportunity of travelling in after-life.

At the conclusion of the address, which was listened to with deep interest, a vote of thanks to Mr. Lucas, proposed by Mr. F. A. UPSHER SMITH, and seconded by Mr. HERBERT PAYNE, was carried by acclamation. The PRESIDENT then announced the result of

THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS

for the ensuing session:—President, Professor Collie, Ph.D., F.R.S., Dean of the School; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. John Evans and F. A. Upsher Smith; Secretaries, Messrs. P. Gray and H. Finnemore; Treasurer, Mr. Darbin; committee, Messrs. Battle, Ewell, Payne, Dyas, Ransom, Wallis. At the adjournment of the meeting the members partook of light refreshments in the Hanbury library.

Liverpool Pharmaceutical Students' Society.

THE first general meeting of the session was held at the School of Pharmacy on Thursday, November 17. A capital attendance of members greeted the new President, Mr. R. C. Cowley, the student element largely preponderating. Among the

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS.

Mr. H. B. MORGAN said he had lately had a good deal of trouble with the insolubility of soda bicarb. in seltzogenes, and would like to know if other members had had similar complaints. He had tried several kinds of soda bicarb., but, with the exception of Chance's, they all left a hard mass in the top of the seltzogene.

The response to Mr. Morgan's remarks elicited the fact that the experience was pretty general. It was thought by many that this result was due to excess of soda bicarb. or of impurity in the tartaric acid or soda bicarb., and the matter was referred back to Mr. Morgan for investigation. This gentleman said he would look into the subject, and report to a subsequent meeting. [On this point see "Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 213.—ED. C. & D.]

Mr. W. COOKE drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that he had lately received complaints of calf-lymph being inert—the glycerinated and other kinds, but with the same result. Members had only met with such an experience in isolated instances, probably due to the patient being immune.

Mr. MARSHALL said he had found that the new B.P. tr. strophanthus does not blend with water clearly.

Mr. DAVIS had also noticed it.

Mr. PROSPER H. MARSDEN called attention to the fact that the new B.P. tincture of squill, when made according to the B.P., although bright when first made, afterwards deposited a pectinous matter. Mr. KESTERTON and Mr. H. B. MORGAN had also noticed the same fact. The PRESIDENT proposed that after being made it should be allowed to stand for twenty-four hours before filtering. Mr. PERCY JENNER had also observed the same peculiarity in connection with the last B.P. tr. scilla.

PEROXIDES.

THE PRESIDENT gave a short note on peroxides, in which he described the classification of peroxides into two classes by Mendeléef, to superoxides and polyoxides, and said that the former yielded H_2O_2 on the addition of an acid, and the latter O. He referred to the usual test for the presence of H_2O_2 , and pointed out that any peroxide when shaken up with dilute sulphuric acid, and then tested with sulphate of iron, iodide of potash, and starch-paste, will give a blue colour, but that the blue colour in the case of the polyoxide was due to the nascent oxygen present, and not due to the formation of H_2O_2 . This was an extremely delicate test for peroxides.

The PRESIDENT then read his inaugural address, entitled

SOME PHARMACEUTICAL PROBLEMS OF THE PRESENT DAY, in which he said that although members of pharmaceutical societies of to-day possess many advantages which fifty years ago were scarcely dreamt of, the policy of drift has been too much in evidence ever since the calling of pharmacy possessed a charter. They were accustomed to hear of the lack of energy on the part of the body which to a certain extent presides over their destinies, and which should by right play the part expected of Hercules by the woodman in the fable. The want of suitable pharmaceutical education tended, some thought, to produce the effect complained of. They were now passing through an experimental stage which would doubtless produce good results in the future. Confining his remarks to the business-side of the question, he said the uppermost thought of every right-minded individual was the idea of bettering his position in life. He then referred to the wild hurry some men are in to get into business, while lacking the business-training necessary to become successful business-men. If there were fewer men in business better salaries would result to the assistant, and many who at the present time are earning in businesses of their own but a mere pittance would, without anxiety, be better off as employés. Sharp intellect will be required of the business man of the future. Another point dealt with was the necessity for sufficient recreation, which was a good

reason for the creation and continuance of such societies as theirs. Late hours, which he acknowledged depended on the class of business, were much to be regretted, and he thought that in obliging customers by keeping open for their convenience, they should remember that servility is not business, and politeness is not servility. He (the President) did not take a pessimistic view of the pharmacist's business, but rather otherwise; they were turning the corner, he thought. The confirmation of the Pharmacy Acts Amendment Act by the Privy Council placed them in a better position than before; he considered they had been wise in not asking too much. They all knew what they wanted, but must not ask for what they could not get. Company-pharmacy was a difficult subject to deal with. There were two classes of companies—those conducted legitimately by qualified owners, and those run by an association of individuals whose callings and stations in life were of the most widely diverging character. The latter were not suitable persons in whom to repose the responsibility of the distribution of drugs, even though whatever virtue in this respect they may possess be transmitted through a qualified manager. He agreed in the main with Mr. J. Rymer Young respecting these latter companies. At the present time there was no way of distinguishing the former class from the latter, except through their historic associations. This, he thought, was an anomaly that should be corrected. As Secretary of the Federation of Local Associations, he wished, through that meeting, to place the Belfast resolutions before other associations in the light they were intended, and hoped they would receive the attention they deserved. He was pleased to notice that pharmaceutical politics were taking up the attention of associations throughout the country, as it pointed to the conclusion that pharmacists were ready to amalgamate for their combined benefit.

Mr. HAROLD WYATT, jun., in proposing a vote of thanks to the President, said that while his address was hardly within the range of discussion, as every one would agree with what Mr. Cowley had said, still there were one or two points worth noting. To his mind there were two classes of pharmacists—those who were absolutely satisfied with the Society, whatever it does, and those who were absolutely dissatisfied with the Pharmaceutical Society, no matter what it does. Though perfectly loyal to the Society, he was anything but pleased with the way in which the officials treated the students, who, when qualified and in their own business, were not likely to have a good opinion of the Society, owing to the scant courtesy of its representatives in London. He instanced a case where a young man had secured a Bell scholarship and also another scholarship in the same year, and though he tried to induce the authorities to allow him to take the Bell scholarship a year later, when it would better suit his work, he was met with an uncompromising "No," and the result was that in the absence of a little "give and take" an ornament to pharmacy had been lost, as the young man had now turned his energies into other channels. Mr. Cowley's idea of dividing company-pharmacy into two classes was very good, and ought to bear fruit.

Mr. PROSPER H. MARSDEN supported the vote, and said he also believed in "one man one shop." This was the practice on the Continent, and worked well. The question of keeping open late was one for the retailers entirely, and he believed Liverpool was one of the worst of cities in this respect. Fourteen hours a day was too much for any man—and especially for a chemist.

Arbroath Chemists' Assistants' and Apprentices' Association.

THE second meeting of the winter session was held on November 15, Mr. D. M. Bruce (Vice-President) in the chair. A paper was read by Mr. T. MARTIN on the "Fertilisation of Plants," for which he was thanked by the meeting.

Aberdeen Junior Chemists' Association.

THE members of this Association indulged in a mock municipal election last Friday evening. Mr. M. K. WATT (Treasurer) occupied the chair, and called on the candidates (Mr. WALLACE, President, Mr. McMILLAN, Vice-President, and

Mr. MAY, Secretary) to lay their views before the electors. All came forward amid great enthusiasm, bisses, and cheering. After their addresses the candidates were severely heckled. Finally an appeal was made to the ballot-box, and Mr. May was placed at the top of the poll.

Derby and District Chemists' Association.

THE annual general meeting of this Association was held at Smith's Restaurant, Derby, on November 16, Mr. J. A. Cope (President), in the chair. All the retiring officers were re-elected with the exception that Messrs. Stevenson and Readman take the places of Messrs. Heath and Hefford on the Committee. Three new members were elected, and the balance-sheet showed cash in hand to the amount of 2*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* This satisfactory state of things obtaining, it was decided that the subscriptions of old members for the current year should be left in abeyance.

The Presidential speech was one of true loyalty to the parent society, Mr. COPE urging that legislation to prevent company-pharmacy, or the control of the sale of carbolic acid and other poisonous substances could only be obtained by unanimously supporting the Society. Other business having been disposed of, the meeting resolved itself into a social gathering, and the President gave a practical exposition of the working of the Freck tablet-machine. Light refreshments and smoking occupied the remainder of the evening.

Dewsbury Chemists' Association.

A MEETING of this Association was held on November 21. There were ten members present.

Mr. GLEDHILL reported that he had received several letters from Mr. Rowed, manager for Mr. Beecham, respecting the meetings held recently at Dewsbury. In one of these was enclosed the firm's remarks on the last meeting, and which Mr. Rowed stated had been sent to the trade-press (*C. & D.*, November 19, page 837). Mr. Gledhill then submitted a draft of the reply he proposed to send to Mr. Beecham, as follows:—

"In answer to your letter of November 15, a copy of which you inform me has been sent to the trade-press, on behalf of our Association I wish to point out to you a few errors which you have committed. Permission was given you to send your reporter without asking Mr. Glyn-Jones, and the only objection raised against him was the fear of his publishing the report in some local paper. After an assurance from your Mr. Glover that such would not be done, all objections were withdrawn. With regard to our first resolution, what we complained of was your sending a report of the meeting to the trade-press without our knowledge, and as no notes were taken by anyone it (the report) was founded on guess-work and, consequently, was not correct, but wrong and misleading. Our second resolution, you say, you must estimate at its true value, and that it was dealt with by twenty-four gentlemen out of a district where you consider there are several hundred retailers of your pills. That may be, but we know that the gentlemen who were present from these districts represented the views of their brother chemists, and, that although only twenty-four were present, you have no right to assume that only this number agreed with the resolution out of these districts. We know it to be otherwise, and that if it had been convenient for them, you would probably have heard three times this number voting at our meeting for the resolution. We are sorry to hear it has had no influence on you. With regard to letters which you have received, extracts from which you commend to our consideration, and which you say only confirm the opinion you have long held that the 'good-will and support' of a certain section of the trade is an unknown quantity, we think that you have no right to measure the 'good-will and support' of the members of our Association by a certain section of the trade. We feel confident that if you could have agreed to the terms as expressed in our resolution that you could have depended on the 'goodwill and support' of our members as solid enough. We are sorry if the controversy has not been a pleasant one to you. As far as we are concerned we shall not look back upon it with regret. Again, you are wrong in stating that it was at the instigation of the secretary of the P.A.T.A. that you were invited over here to meet us. It was on the invitation of our Association that you were invited, and the secretary of the P.A.T.A. knew nothing about it until all arrangements had been made for the meeting. At his suggestion you were invited to the second meeting, as he was anxious to meet your representative, although you would have been informed of his coming in the same manner as we informed him of your coming to the first meeting. Our Association has no wish to interfere with the management of your business,

and what we have done has been done with the intention of trying to see if you could not help us in obtaining a living profit on your articles, having approached you in a friendly and courteous manner, without a vestige of ill-feeling in the matter. In conclusion, we can only hope that some way out of the present deplorable condition of this branch of our business will be found."

The reply was approved by the meeting. A discussion on the subject generally followed, Mr. STEAD, of the *Derby Standard*, speaking at considerable length. He urged that 10 per cent. was the best Mr. Beecham could do for them. They had better refuse to sign any agreement. They could gain nothing by doing so, and had much to lose in the way of self-respect and consistency. He also commented on the letters on the subject which appeared in last week's *C. & D.* The Chairman (Mr. Foster), Mr. Guttridge, Mr. Day, and Mr. Crook also spoke.

North-East Lancashire Chemists' Association.

THE annual meeting of this Association was held at the White Bull Hotel, Blackburn, on November 17, Mr. Councillor Critchley presiding.

Mr. HAWORTH read the balance-sheet, which showed a balance of 6*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* He said the balance-sheet was defective in that there was no mention of the Secretary's remuneration. Mr. Gifford was entitled to 2*l.* 2*s.*, and no secretary had ever earned two guineas more thoroughly. The balance-sheet was adopted, subject to the addition of Mr. Gifford's remuneration.

Mr. GIFFORD read letters from Mr. Wilkinson, the local secretary at Preston, asking him to attend a meeting of Preston chemists on December 1, and from Mr. Rymer Young, of Warrington, promising to give an address at Blackburn during the winter.

The CHAIRMAN mentioned that a week previously Mr. Gifford, Mr. Holt, and himself went to Accrington and Burnley to stir up the movement in those towns. At Accrington they got Mr. Furness to call a meeting together of the trade in the town, and all the chemists of the town except three were present. This meeting resulted in the establishment of a chemists' association at Accrington. A similar result had followed the meeting at Burnley.

Mr. GIFFORD then read his report, which dealt with the various trade-questions of the day. After referring to the Poisonous Substances Bill and the Pharmacy Act Amendment Act, he said they were charged with dealing too much with generalisations, and they were asked to deal with specific questions. Well, all they could say was that their critics had been dealing with definite points for the last twenty years, with the result that the topics for discussion had increased twentyfold, and to-day they had in this country something like five hundred large establishments legally practising illegitimate pharmacy, as well as thousands of persons exercising the functions of the pharmacist illegally. They maintained that the Pharmacy Act of 1868 had failed to accomplish its manifest intention. They wanted a new and adequate Pharmacy Act—one in harmony with the spirit of the age, defining and giving reasonable functions to the person willing to fulfil the demands and undergo the conditions. There was room for a profession of pharmacy, which should consist in handling and distributing powerful herbs, drugs, and chemicals. They did not expect any feeding-bottle treatment from the Pharmaceutical Council. They expected to attend to their trade themselves, and it was the business of the Council to attend to the profession of pharmacy solely. Its duty was to widen and perfect that profession by every means in its power.

Mr. GRIMSHAW moved, and Mr. HARRISON seconded the adoption of the report.

Mr. GERLAND said he agreed with the spirit of the report, but he thought if Mr. Gifford tried to draft a new Pharmacy Bill he would find it difficult.

Mr. HAWORTH agreed with Mr. Gifford that it was not their work to draft a Bill. That was the duty of the Pharmaceutical Society.

Mr. GERLAND: But I think you ought to express the lines on which such a Bill should proceed.

Mr. HAWORTH said they could do that, but they were trying to associate Blackburn, Preston, Darwen, Accrington and

Burnley. Then they would be able to speak with no uncertain voice.

The report having been adopted, Mr. GIFFORD said the committee suggested that a meeting should be held in December to deal with the resolutions suggested by the Federation. Then at a special meeting, probably in January, they would have an address from Mr. RYMER YOUNG. Councillor JAMES LAW had offered to take the members over the borough gas and electricity works and the sewerage works, and Mr. J. W. BAXTER, B.A., had also promised a paper.

After some further discussion on company-pharmacy, Mr. Critchley was re-elected President. Counsellor Sturrock was chosen Vice-President. Mr. Gifford was re-elected Hon. Secretary, and Messrs. Haworth, Holt, Hoghton, Entough, Lomas, Wells, Pickup, Pickworth, and Grimshaw were appointed on the committee.

North Staffordshire and District Chemists' Association.

A MEETING of this Association was held on November 17, at Stoke-upon-Trent, Mr. J. Averill, J.P. (President) in the chair. There was a fair attendance, and Mr. W. Oldham (Burslem), the oldest retail chemist in the district, and Mr. W. Hartley, of Shelton, were elected members.

Mr. ALLISON, chief dispenser at the North Staffordshire Infirmary, then read a paper on "Emulsions," showing a number of samples of emulsions and white oils prepared by himself. The paper produced a good discussion, and Mr. Allison was heartily thanked.

On the motion of the SECRETARY (Mr. Edmund Jones), a resolution was passed urging members to join the Pharmaceutical Society.

Irish Pharmacists' Assistants' Association.

THIS Association met on November 18, at 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin, Mr. Henry Hunt, M.P.S.I. (President), in the chair. The sub-committee appointed to see after the new club-room and offices reported terms on which two places could be obtained, and they were requested to inquire further. When the general business had been got through, impromptu discussions on "The Influence of the P.A.T.A. on Chemists" and "Infusions, New and Old" were taken. On the first-named question Mr. TAYLOR approved of the Association in the abstract, on the ground that it helped to bring more profit to chemists. Mr. O'FARRELL argued that circumstances and localities altered cases, and it was obviously absurd for a chemist to stick out for the highest penny when by so doing he lost his customer and sent business to the stores. The chemist ought to fight the cutter with his own weapons.

Chemists' Assistants' Association.

AT a meeting held on November 17 at 73 Newman Street, W., the President, Mr. F. W. Gamble, in the chair, Mr. W. ANDERSON contributed an interesting paper entitled

ADVERTISING.

Having dealt with the historical development of advertising Mr. Anderson passed on from speaking of advertising in general to advertising in connection with pharmacy. He pointed out that in a high-class dispensing-business advertising must take a different form from that in a pharmacy, which caters for the multitude.

In the former case advertisements usually take a stereotyped form, and, in effect, merely amount to directing public attention to the existence of the business. In the latter case there is much greater scope for extensive and energetic advertising. If a pharmacist wishes to push a proprietary preparation of his own he should first select an article which might be of daily demand, and has not too many competitors. Having chosen the article to be advertised it should be neatly and attractively put up.

Then as to preparing the advertisement: in the first place the advertiser should study the advertisements of others, and

discover what kind of advertisement most attracts attention. Having come to a decision on this point the advertisement should be submitted to a process of analysis, and the reasons of its efficiency ascertained. Headlines are of importance, as in an advertisement the first point is to attract attention, and this can be effected by an attractive headline in bold type, by the use of borders, or by employing illustrations.

The second point consists in giving reasons why the reader should purchase the article, and, if possible, why it is better than others of the same nature in the market. The wording should be plain, and not ambiguous, the language convincing, not flowery, and the whole sense of it should be directed straight to the point, and not devoted to generalities. A point in connection with arguments is the use of testimonials; these have a great effect on people of small education.

The price of the article must be included in the advertisement, and the name and address of the seller.

As to what should be avoided in advertising Mr. Anderson urged that an advertisement should never be a mere catalogue of prices, as the public like to know more without asking. It is bad policy to attempt to cover too much ground with as little expense as possible, and advertisements should not be unduly condensed. Advertising must not be conducted in a haphazard fashion, but once begun should be stuck to as it is cumulative in its effects. The next step is to place it so as to reach the public. Booklets answer the purpose well, but the chief medium for advertising is the press. The paper or magazine in which the advertisement is to appear must be chosen with care, so that the section of the public likely to use the article will be reached.

The guaranteed circulation of the paper should then be ascertained, and if a verified statement is not forthcoming, the circulation can be roughly gauged by taking the mean between the publisher's approximate figure and that given by one of his opponents. The net price is calculated out as so much per line or inch per 1,000 circulation. So that, although a paper may appear to charge more than its competitors, yet, when the charges are calculated on this basis it is often much cheaper.

Mr. Anderson concluded with a few remarks on the way to get the greatest benefit from the advertisement after the public had been drawn to the pharmacy, and gave some illustrations of curious and amusing advertisements.

A discussion followed in which the PRESIDENT, Messrs. FULLERTON, BUTLER, JAMES, PEARSON, and others took part, and Mr. ANDERSON having replied, the meeting adjourned.

Chemical Society.

LAST week's meeting was not largely attended, nor was the programme an attractive one—moreover, the officers hurried through the proceedings, as the Royal Society had a *conversazione*, and some of the Fellows were anxious to go to it. After a paper on "Determination of the Constitution of Fatty Acids" had been epitomised, Mr. W. J. POPE gave the meeting a rather dreary account of two of his striking investigations on

CRYSTALLINE FORM.

The first was by himself, on iodoform, which he has long been trying to get in good crystals, and has at last succeeded in getting in magnificent six-sided tablets by crystallisation from acetone. The crystals belong to the hexagonal system, and Mr. Pope gave measurements of them. The second paper was by Professor STANLEY KIPPING and himself, and dealt with the characterisation of racemic compounds, following up work in this line by Ladenburg, whose conclusions they did not agree with.

CHIONE GLABRA

was the next subject, Professor DUNSTAN bringing from the Imperial Institute laboratory a paper by himself and Mr. T. A. HENRY on an essential oil which they obtained from the wood of this tree, which is indigenous to Grenada. The wood has a strong aromatic, somewhat faecal odour, and this the authors attribute to its essential oil, the composition of which they have ascertained. The chief constituents of the oil are orthohydroxyacetophenone, C_6H_4AcOH , and a minute

amount of a methyl ether of the same (C_6H_4AcOMe) which is a crystalline body. The first of these bodies they prepared synthetically, starting from orthonitro-cinnamic acid, and it had the same properties as the volatile oil.*

Dr. HARDEN initiated some remarks on the origin of indole derivatives, which enabled Professor DEWAR to give the meeting a taste of his marvellously wide practical knowledge of chemistry; and, after Professor DUNSTAN had had his say in reply, Dr. WYNNE summarised the rest of the papers, which were principally by Professor E. Divers, of Tokio. The only one of these of direct interest to us was on the "Preparation of Pure Alkali Nitrites." He reported that these are easily obtained pure and in concentrated solution by passing nitrous gases containing slight excess of nitric oxide into concentrated solutions of pure potassium or sodium hydroxide or carbonate, out of contact with air. With ordinary care, no nitrate is formed; it is a current mistake to suppose that it is. Both nitrites are slightly yellow, and their concentrated solutions markedly yellow. The sodium salt melts at 213° ; at 15° , 6 parts of water dissolve 5 parts of it. Its crystals are often very large, but very thin, flattened prisms, moderately deliquescent. Sodium nitrite can be readily purified by recrystallisation; potassium nitrite cannot. Potassium nitrite occurs only in minute, short prisms, and is soluble in one-third of its weight of water. It is exceedingly deliquescent, but its crystals are anhydrous.

Mr. GROVES remarked that sodium nitrite is manufactured on a large scale for use in the colour-industry, and is sent into the market nearly pure, containing some 93 per cent. of the salt; but, as far as his experience went, neither the salt nor the solution is yellow.

Mr. FRISWELL also spoke, giving an account of the commercial preparation of nitrite by reduction of nitrate with lead.

* This appears to be the same oil as Paul and Cowley have previously obtained to the extent of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from the root-bark of *Chione glabra* (*Ph. J.*, July 16, 1898). They regarded the oil as a phenol, and found that it gave a mass of acicular crystals on being cooled to about $-20^\circ C$. Professor Dunstan, however, did not at the meeting refer to these previous observations.—ED. C. & D.

Mr. Bannister.

SOMERSET HOUSE is not much associated in the minds of those who contribute to the Inland Revenue with sentiment, nor is it generally considered that the region of stamps, taxes, and Excise is a soil favourable for the cultivation of the human sympathies. Perhaps, however, the refining influences of chemistry have had an effect on those Civil servants who are set apart for laboratory-work; at any rate, it was difficult to believe that the party which assembled in the Drill Hall of the grim old Strand palace, on Tuesday last, to do honour to their old comrade and deputy-chief, Mr. Richard Bannister, were so much Civil servants as men and women of the ordinary human kind. The company consisted almost entirely of past and present chemical-workers in the Government Laboratory, with a fair sprinkling of ladies, and though there seemed to be a certain air of unaccustomedness about the proceedings, there was no mistake about the manifestation of regard and, if it had been anywhere else, we should have said affection with which the guest of the occasion and his wife were received. Dr. James Bell, C.B., the retired Principal of the Laboratory, had come up from his country home; and Dr. Thorpe, F.R.S., the present Principal, took the leading part in the ceremonies. The gifts, which consisted of several Worcester vases, a tea-service, a case of silver fruit-knives, a beautiful engraved copy of Leader's "Eventide," and a diamond bracelet for Mrs. Bannister, were set out on a table, and were backed up by flowers—yes, flowers in Somerset House.

The proceedings, which lasted about an hour, were very interesting. Dr. Thorpe made a happy speech, sketching Mr. Bannister's career in humorous but highly appreciative terms. The doctor, who has been a Government chemist about a year, tried his best, by references to "the Service," to figure as an official; but in that respect he failed. It will take him twenty years to acquire the formal severity

properly associated with the Exchequer or the Treasury, whichever it may be that he serves. But that was the only respect in which Dr. Thorpe was unsuccessful. No one could have better described in a short speech the long years of faithful and valuable service which Mr. Bannister has rendered. He came into the Civil Service, Dr. Thorpe said, in 1857, and was drafted into the laboratory in 1862. It was said that no Civil servant was worth his salt who had not a grievance; and Mr. Bannister had had several. First, he took up the cause of the horses; he got better conditions for them and for those who looked after them. Later on he got a certain order relating to the marriage of Civil servants modified. He would not say what his motives might have been in this, but soon afterwards Mrs. Bannister appeared on the horizon. Mr. Bannister's long career in the Inland Revenue Department had been a very successful one, and his conspicuous ability, even in his early days, was shown by the fact that Professor Hoffman, no mean judge, placed him first in the examinations of his year with the maximum number of marks. In the laboratory Mr. Bannister had shown his capacity to deal not only with the difficult and delicate work of the Revenue Department, but with many other matters outside that Department. With the invidious and ungrateful task involved in the settlement of cases referred to the Laboratory under the Food and Drugs Act Mr. Bannister's name would always be associated; and his experience, not only in the chemistry of food, drugs, and drinks, but in the commercial and trading interests involved, had done not a little to render that Act as successful as it had been. The great experience possessed by Mr. Bannister had naturally caused his assistance to be in request in many directions outside his official work. He had been called upon to appear before a number of Royal Commissions and Parliamentary Committees, where his evidence certainly was not the least interesting or important; and he had served as a juror at the South Kensington Exhibitions, as well as at the international exhibitions at Paris and Chicago. In making the presentation Dr. Thorpe briefly alluded to the beautiful engraving of Leader's famous "Eventide," which he thought had been appropriately included among the gifts. He added that they had only to look at the smiling faces of Mr. and Mrs. Bannister to feel confident that their eventide would be a very happy one—a long summer twilight.

Mr. Steele, late Chief Inspector of Excise, and others added a few words expressing their sense of Mr. Bannister's courtesy and readiness to help in dealing with official matters.

When Mr. Bannister rose to respond he received a most cordial welcome. He looked more ready to begin his career than to retire from one, and his speech was an admirable one. He said it was almost as painful to have one's good qualities spoken of in public as to have one's bad qualities narrated. He and his wife had tried to be of some use; they knew they had failed, but he was thankful for the words of friends who at least knew they had tried. Speaking of the laboratory-work he said it was especially difficult, because of the constant extension which had been forced upon them. New duties were ever being put on the Laboratory, but very little recognition in the way of increased pay was accorded. Work in that laboratory was not like preparing papers for a scientific evening meeting. Their work had to come before magistrates and juries, and had to be proved in every detail. Their work in connection with the Food and Drugs Act had been some of their most discouraging work, in that they had to meet an attempt not to ensure justice, but merely to secure convictions. They had tried in the laboratory to see that justice should be done between all parties. Dr. Thorpe had spoken about his marriage. He and his wife, he said, had grown up together as children, and when they were about twelve years of age they had quite decided to be husband and wife, and they had never changed their minds. What could they do with these beautiful presents? Thirty years ago would have been the time to give him such a testimonial. Nevertheless, he thanked them all for what they gave, and for the kind words which had been spoken.

HAVE you got a copy of "Pharmaceutical Formulas"? "Of course; couldn't do without it," replies a subscriber.

Business Changes.

MR. ARTHUR T. GRAY, chemist and druggist, has opened a pharmacy at 5 High Street, Barnes.

MR. F. CHERRY, pharmaceutical chemist, has opened a pharmacy in The Broadway, Waiton.

MR. J. B. BRYANT will shortly open a new pharmacy and photographic store at 17B Regent Street, Cambridge.

MR. R. W. DUNN, chemist, Edinburgh, has purchased the old-established business of Mr. D. Hodgeton, of Brechin.

MR. F. G. GUDGFON has sold his business at 22 High Road, Chiswick, to Bruce's Drug-stores, of Ealing Broadway.

DR. J. CRAIG-MACGOWN, Millport, has taken over the practice and chemist's shops of the late Dr. J. M. Miller, at Largs and Fairlie.

MR. BENTLEY, chemist and druggist, has purchased the business of Mr. C. J. Wain, pharmaceutical chemist, of 27 Stoke Road, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent.

MR. C. T. KEMP, pharmaceutical chemist, Hereford, has laid down plant, with all the latest improvements, for the manufacture of aerated waters in syphons.

MR. R. BLUETT, lately manager to Mr. A. C. Wells chemist, St. Albans, has commenced business on his own account at 121 St. Albans Road, Watford.

THE aerated-water business of Mr. J. H. Aplin, chemist Trowbridge, has increased to such an extent that he has decided to build a new mineral-water factory.

MR. A. W. BALLINGALL, manager for the last eight years of Mr. J. McMillan's branch at Kelvin-side, Glasgow, will shortly open a new pharmacy at 449 Great Western Road.

MR. JOHN BIRD, chemist and druggist, late of Cheetham Hill Road, Manchester, has purchased the business of Messrs. Jardine & Co., 6 Queen's Parade, Alexandra Road, Cleethorpes.

MR. JAMES GRANT, chemist, 136 Crown Street, Glasgow, has opened a new pharmacy at 7 Waverley Terrace, Paisley Road, West, and has disposed of his Caledonian Road and Rutheiglen Road branches.

THE business of the late Mr. F. Walton, chemist and druggist, Sowerby Bridge, has been acquired by Mr. R. Dixon, chemist and druggist, lately with Mr. C. Jones, Royton, and Mr. J. C. Arnfield, Stockport.

MR. JOSEPH PATINSON, pharmaceutical chemist, late assistant with Mr. R. H. Brown, Wigton, has purchased the business at Aspatria recently carried on as a branch by Mr. Wm. Spark, chemist and druggist, Maryport.

MR. WILFRED LEAN, chemist and druggist, 24 Port Street, Evesham, has decided to abandon the grocery department which has hitherto been connected with his business, and in future will devote himself entirely to pharmacy.

THE business-premises of Mr. R. Skinner, chemist and druggist, are included in the list of shops which the Bromley Urban District Council are seeking to acquire compulsorily for the widening and improving of the High Street.

MR. DAVID SMITH ANDERSON, chemist and druggist, recently carrying on business at the Market Hall, Chesterfield, has purchased the business of Mr. Walter Charles Langbourne, chemist and druggist, 72 Lancashire Hill, Stockport.

MESSRS J. J. GRIFFIN & SONS (LIMITED), manufacturers of chemical and philosophical instruments and photographic apparatus, have removed from 22 Garrick Street and 2 Long Acre, W.C., to 20 to 26 Sardinia Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

THE works of the Chemisché Fabrik (K. & Dr. W. Fischer), at Schweinfurt, have been acquired by Vereinigte Chemische Fabriken, A.G., Schweinfurt, and Messrs. Brummerstaedt & Lüders, 3 Cross Lane, E.C., continue as sole agents for Great Britain and the colonies.

MESSRS. COCKBURN & Co. (LIMITED), wholesale druggists, Glasgow, have acquired the lower flat of their premises at East Howard Street, Glasgow, which they are converting into offices. The building was originally a church, and was afterwards a music-hall, and subsequently a bowling-alley.

MESSRS. GOLDTHORPE & COOKE'S premises at 37 Hare Street, Woolwich, the oldest-established pharmacy in the town, are being demolished for improvement purposes. The business, which had been in the hands of Messrs. Parkes, father and son, for nearly a century, was purchased by Messrs. Goldthorpe & Cooke a year or two ago, and was held by them until the expiration of the lease. A new shop has been opened by Messrs. Goldthorpe & Cooke, at Plumstead Common.

Personalities.

MR. W. G. JAGO, chemist, Hove, has been elected unopposed to the newly-formed Corporation at Hove.

MR. R. T. BAKER, F.L.S., has been promoted from Assistant-Curator to Curator of the Technological Museum, Sydney, N.S.W.

MR. FOSTER CLARK, manufacturer of Eiffel Tower lemonade-powder, has been elected unopposed to fill a casual vacancy on Maidstone Town Council.

MR. DAVID WATSON, chemist and druggist, Cathcart Road, Glasgow, was returned at the top of the poll at the Govan Parish Council election on November 22.

MR. W. E. SMITH, of Smith & Sons, chemists, Ootacamund and Coonoor, has been made a special Magistrate for Ootacamund and a J.P. for the Madras Presidency.

MR. PERCIVAL SIDNEY CAMPKIN, son of Mr. A. Sidney Campkin, Cambridge, was one of the successful candidates for the L.D.S. at the recent dental-examinations.

IN our notice of Mayors last week, we incorrectly described Alderman J. C. Coles, of Chippenham, as a Conservative. We have been since informed that he is a "good Liberal."

MR. E. W. GOUGH, the new general manager of Lewis & Burroughs (Limited), was entertained at dinner the other evening at the Florence Restaurant by the branch managers of the company.

MR. J. E. BUSH, chemist, Melksham, lectured on November 16, in the Parish-room, under the auspices of St. Michael's Guild. His subject was "The Phenomenon of Colour and Colour-photography."

THE Mayor of Worcester, Mr. J. A. Steward, on taking his seat, for the first time since his election, at the City Police Court on November 21, in accordance with ancient custom pardoned the first offender brought before him, who happened to be a belated cyclist who rode at night without a light.

MR. W. R. WARNER, of Messrs. Warner & Co., Philadelphia, is at present travelling in Europe, and has sent a good description of a visit he paid to Mount Vesuvius to *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. Vesuvius being at the time in active eruption presented, Mr. Warner says, a terrifying spectacle each night.

MR. CHARLES TURNER, F.C.S., Director of the Manchester College of Pharmacy, delivered a lecture at a *conversazione* of the Manchester Field Naturalists' and Archaeologists' Society a few days ago on "The Relationship between Rain and Plants." Mr. Turner illustrated his lecture with limelight views.

MR. GEO. T. FULFORD, proprietor of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and his family left Brockville (Ontario) on November 9, en route for New York and London, where they will spend the winter. Before leaving Brockville, Mr. Fulford was presented with an address and a handsome solid silver ice-urn by his Brockville friends. Mr. Fulford has completed arrangements for the erection next summer of a new residence on the river-front which will cost something like \$100,000.

Legal Reports.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

THE CRANBROOK GROUND-GINGER CASE.

IN the report of this case which we published last week, it was mentioned that Messrs. George Harker & Co. were the wholesale vendors of the ground ginger which was found to have been adulterated. We have since ascertained that it came out in the evidence (though this fact was not furnished to us in the report we received) that what Messrs. George Harker & Co. supplied was *whole* Cochin ginger. This they sold to a country wholesale grocer, who was called as a witness, and who stated that the whole Cochin ginger which he bought from Messrs. George Harker & Co. was sent by him to his miller to be ground, and was returned by the latter in canvas bags. It is obvious that these facts ought to have been included in the report, and we much regret that through the carelessness of a reporter our report should have done injustice to Messrs. George Harker & Co., on whom clearly no sort of imputation can rest.

A "Proprietary" Ointment.

AT the Clerkenwell County Court, on November 18, before Judge Edge and a jury, Emma Filce, 37 Chatfield Road, Croydon, sued Arthur Richard Turner, a "patent-medicine owner," 133A Gray's Inn Road, W.C., for 40*l.* balance of payment for a business in the sale of a proprietary ointment, which the plaintiff had handed over to the defendant. There was also a counter-claim of 46*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*, 20*l.* of which had been paid on account of the business and 23*l.* odd spent in trying to keep it together. Mr. Warren, barrister, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Bertie, solicitor, for the defendant. The plaintiff said she had prepared the ointment from a recipe known to her, and she did a business from the house with some chemists and at various places which her husband visited, and sold pots of the ointment. The last year she had the business she made a turnover of about 65*l.* The business was increasing, and, as it was getting too much for her, she took her son's advice and sold it to the defendant for 60*l.*, 20*l.* being paid on account and the remainder to be paid by instalments of principal and interest. This action was to recover the balance of 40*l.* which had not been paid. Mr. Bertie: How do you know that you made 65*l.* out of this business in 1897? Mrs. Filce: Because I put the money in a separate place. Mr. Bertie: In what place? Mrs. Filce: In the earthenware basin. (Laughter.) Mr. Warren: Don't ask her where she kept the basin, or someone may hear it and go down. (Laughter.) His Honour: We sometimes have housebreakers in court here, but I hope we don't have any burglars. (Loud laughter.) Letters were then put in showing that defendant had written to plaintiff, stating in effect that he should not pay any more for the business, as he had been induced to buy it under misrepresentation. Defendant went into the box and swore he bought the business because he was led to believe that a turnover of 65*l.* was realised by the trade done from the house alone. He counter-claimed for the money paid, 20*l.*, and 23*l.* odd for money expended trying to continue the business in Gray's Inn Road. Cross-examined by Mr. Warren, he stated that he was a proof-reader, and did a little canvassing to continue the ointment business, but kept up his ordinary avocations. The Judge directed the jury that plaintiff was entitled to recover under her agreement unless the contract was voided by fraudulent misrepresentation of the business done, a matter for them to decide. After a short consultation the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, with interest to date under the agreement. Judgment was accordingly entered for the amount, with costs.

Illegal Sale of Laudanum.

AT Heanor Petty Sessions on November 21, Mary Ann Slack, a Heanor shopkeeper, was summoned by the police

authorities for selling a pennyworth of laudanum without labelling the bottle "Poison." The evidence for the prosecution was to the effect that a woman named Bickerstaffe bought the laudanum from defendant, and it was supplied with no label on the bottle. Bickerstaffe afterwards drank the laudanum with the intention of committing suicide, and was charged with the offence at the Police Court, and it was from the evidence then given that the present prosecution arose. Defendant admitted giving the woman Bickerstaffe a quantity of laudanum, but denied the sale. She did not keep it for sale, but for mixing with white oils, and she gave Bickerstaffe a small quantity with the expectation that it was wanted for external use. A letter was put in from the Pharmaceutical Society, and after a brief deliberation and a warning from the Chairman defendant was fined 1*s.* and 12*s.* costs.

The Departments in Barker's Stores.

BEFORE Mr. Justice Lawrance and a jury in the Queen's Bench Division, on Monday, an action was brought by Wm. Johnson, late in the employ of Messrs. J. Barker & Co., of The Stores, High Street, Kensington, to recover damages for improper treatment of personal injuries, and for wrongful dismissal. Mr. Marshall Hall, Q.C., and Mr. Carrington appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. Tindal Atkinson, Q.C., and Mr. Earle for defendants.

Mr. Marshall Hall, in opening the case, said the action was brought under rather peculiar circumstances. Among the multifarious businesses carried on by the defendants were those of grocers, chemists, and butchers. In the butchery-department the plaintiff was employed to cut up meat to make sausages with. The meat, in order to be prevented from going bad, was treated with a preservative called frizol. In cutting up the meat the plaintiff unfortunately sliced off a piece of the first finger of his left hand, and it was probable that some of the frizol got into the wound. He went into the chemists'-department of the stores to have his finger dressed. The assistant in charge bandaged it up, and told plaintiff not to remove the bandage until the following Tuesday, it being then Friday, May 28, 1897. When he went on the Tuesday he was suffering great pain, and when the bandage was removed it was found that his fingers had been drawn back, owing, it was alleged, to improper bandaging. It appeared that the defendants retained the services of a doctor, who attended to the assistants and who was paid a yearly salary for calling there each morning. Plaintiff was advised to see the doctor, but the managing chemist said there was no necessity to do so, and went on treating him. Ultimately, however, the plaintiff did see the doctor (Dr. Watts), who said there had been improper bandaging. He took him under his care, and prescribed for him until November; but the finger, instead of getting better, got worse, and plaintiff was sent to two hospitals. He was suffering from gangrene, and the end of his finger dropped off and it had to be amputated. It was not yet certain, counsel said, that he would not have to lose his hand, or even his arm. He worked for the defendants until March last, when he was paid his wages and told that he was no longer required. He submitted that plaintiff's injuries were due to the inefficiency of the defendants' chemical department; and he also argued that a cure had been retarded by plaintiff having had applied to his wound a lotion meant for another man—another proof of inefficiency.

Plaintiff, on being called to support counsel's opening statement, said his wages were 1*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* a week with board and beer. On May 28 of last year he cut off a piece of his finger when he was cutting sausage-meat. He looked for it and could not find it. (Laughter.) He saw Mr. Trubshaw, the head of the chemists' department, who put some stuff on it which he said would make him jump, and it did. (Renewed laughter.) He got various prescriptions from Dr. Watts when the finger became gangrenous, and on one occasion a lotion was used which was intended for another man, which caused great irritation. Evidence was called to prove that the treatment of plaintiff's wound was improper.

On Tuesday Mr. Tindal Atkinson, Q.C., submitted on behalf of the defendants that under all the circumstances the plaintiff had been as well treated as he could have been

treated elsewhere in the ordinary way. As to the mistake with the lotion or ointment, which it was alleged had caused injury to the finger, he denied that Dr. Watts had been guilty of any negligence. The gangrene which set in was due to an unclean bandage which the defendant had put on himself. Then as to plaintiff's dismissal, he had asked for a lighter job, but as that could not be given him he left of his own accord. Then he returned, and said he had changed his mind, but his place had then been filled. He submitted that he had only brought the action in the hope that the defendants would pay a sum of money rather than go into court.

Mr. Charles Trubshaw, chief dispenser of drugs in the chemists' department, said that when plaintiff went to him he applied friar's balsam to the wound, and bound it up with a surgical bandage. Plaintiff afterwards put on a rag which was not too clean and he had tied it too tight.

Medical evidence was about to be called when, after a consultation, Mr. Marshall Hall said, on behalf of the plaintiff, he would submit to judgment for the defendants on terms which had been agreed upon.

Judgment was then entered for the defendants, plaintiff to have the 21*l.* paid into court, and leave to take out 10*l.* which he had paid in as security. No order was made as to costs. Mr. Tindal Atkinson said that the reason why the defendants had fought the action was that if they had submitted to let it go against them they would have had any amount of claims. His Lordship: It is a very proper ending indeed, and the jury also agree that the defendants have behaved most handsomely to the man.

Factory and Workshops Act.

IN a prosecution under this Act heard at the Leeds Police Court, on Wednesday, the Stipendiary decided that Perry's Powders (Limited) came within the Act as "Letter-press Printing Works," although the only printing they do on their premises is that of their wrappers and labels, and this is done from stereotyped-blocks plated with copper, and not in any case from type direct.

Bankruptcies and Failures.

Re CHARLES COOK, Shipley, Grocer and Dealer in Drugs.

A MEETING of the creditors of this debtor was held on November 18 at the offices of the Bradford Official Receiver (Mr. J. Arthur Binns). It was decided that the Official Receiver wind up the estate.

Re HENRY HAYWARD, Fowey, Cornwall,
Chemist and Druggist.

THE statutory meeting of creditors was held at Truro, before the Official Receiver (Mr. G. A. Jenkins), on November 17. Mr. Horace Dobell appeared on behalf of the debtor. The statement of affairs discloses liabilities amounting to 347*l.*, of which 337*l.* was due to unsecured creditors and expected to rank for dividend, and the assets were estimated to produce 43*l.*, leaving a deficiency of 294*l.* The debtor alleged as the causes of failure, "depression in trade, want of capital, and heavy pressure by creditors." The Official Receiver in his observations stated that the debtor filed his own petition. He commenced business in 1895 as successor to Mr. Steeples, of whom he purchased the business for 200*l.* under a hire-agreement at 1*l.* per week, with interest at 5*l.* per cent. per annum, together with the rent. The debtor stated his gross takings he estimated at 240*l.* per annum, and that he had made no profit, but had drawn about 30*s.* per week for household and personal expenses. He was not in a position to make any offer, and had been adjudicated bankrupt, and the Court had upon the application of the Official Receiver made an order for the summary administration of the estate. The Chairman, having read over the list of proofs received, explained that under the order of the Court he would be the trustee under the bankruptcy, unless the creditors appointed an independent trustee, which they had power to do by special resolution. After some discussion it was decided to leave the estate in the hands of Mr. Jenkins to realise.

Gazette.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Smith, F. W., and Dickinson, G. F., Leamington and elsewhere, physicians and surgeons.

Wilson, J. H., and Davies, L., under the style of Wilson & Davies, Ordnance Road, Enfield Lock, and Enfield Wash, chemists.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACTS, 1883 AND 1890.

RECEIVING ORDER.

Wilson, William Joseph, late Moseley, now Birmingham, chemist's manager.

ORDER MADE ON APPLICATION FOR DISCHARGE.

Boyle, Benjamin Patrick, Davenry, veterinary surgeon—discharge suspended until December 15, 1903.

Deed of Arrangement.

Heald, John (deceased), late trading as "Heald & Son" (by executors), late Scarr Top, Burnley, drysalter. Trustee, George Proctor, Grimshaw Street, Burnley, chartered accountant. Dated, November 14; filed, November 15. Liabilities unsecured, 285*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.*; estimated net assets, 135*l.* 18*s.* The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Beaufoy & Co., London	14	0	0
Blades, W. M., Fence	100	0	0
Clarke, Alice B., Great Ayton	20	0	0
Evans, Sons & Co., Liverpool	23	0	0
Hargreaves, T., & Son, Burnley	22	0	0
Lancashire Vinegar Company, Manchester	10	0	0
Thom David & Co., Pendleton	11	0	0

New Companies & Company News.

CLAY, PAGET & CO. (LIMITED).—Capital 5,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To manufacture, import, export, sell, and deal in milk-foods, essences, food-stuffs, and articles of diet of all kinds.

PATENT HERMETIC BOTTLE-CORK COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 105,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares (100,000 8 per cent. cumulative preference). Objects: To acquire, develop, turn to account, work and deal with any patents for improved means of hermetically closing or corking bottles.

FIGURE-IMPROVING SOAP COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 20,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares (2,000 deferred). Objects: To acquire the business now carried on in connection with the Amiral Green Soap (Savon Vert de l'Amiral), by Ladislaus E. Granichstaden, and to carry on the business of soap-manufacturers, and pharmaceutical, manufacturing and general chemists and druggists.

PAPIER POUDRÉ (LIMITED).—Capital 1,200*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire the business carried on by Annie S. Butler, Flora B. Walker, and George D. D. Clephane in the United Kingdom under the style of "The Papier Poudré Company," and to carry on the business of perfumers, manufacturers, and importers of papier poudré and all kinds of perfumery, soap, essences, toilet-requisites, &c. Registered without articles of association. Registered office, 90 Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury, W.C.

MEDICAL MAGAZINE ASSOCIATION (LIMITED).—Capital 10,000*l.*, in 800 6*l.* per cent. cumulative preference shares of 5*l.* each, and 6,000 ordinary shares of 1*l.* each. Objects: To acquire the copyright and goodwill of "The Medical Magazine," to enter into an agreement with Alexander G. Auld, and to carry on the business of newspaper-proprietors, printers, publishers, &c. The first subscribers are:—German S. Woodhead, M.D., D'Arcy Power, F.R.C.S., and Finlay C. Auld. Registered office, 62 King William Street, E.C.

STEPHEN SMITH & CO. (LIMITED).—The directors of this company have paid an interim dividend of 5 per cent. on their ordinary shares.

SAXEY'S WHITE LEAD SYNDICATE (LIMITED).—Mr. Justice Kekewich last Friday appointed a receiver of this company on behalf of the debenture holder.

HUDSON BROTHERS (LONDON), LIMITED.—This company, which has been formed with a capital of 400,000*l.* to take over the well-known bakery and provision businesses, takes power also to carry on the business of chemists and mineral-water manufacturers.

APOLLINARIS AND JOHANNIS.—The Directors of Apollinaris and Johannis (Limited) have declared interim dividends for the half-year ended September 30 last on the preference shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, and on the ordinary shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum.

A. J. WHITE.—The *Daily Mail* says there has lately been a rather severe drop in A. J. White's (Mother Seigel) shares, which was due to forced selling on behalf of the trustees of a deceased holder. This holding has, however, been transferred to an American syndicate, which hopes to get the price back again to the old level. As the dividends paid are at the rate of 10 per cent., and as the shares stand at 15*s.*, there would seem to be a chance for the speculatively-minded. They rose 6*d.* to 1*s.* on Tuesday.

IDRIS & Co. (LIMITED).—The annual report of this company dealing with the year ending 30th September, 1898, states that the past season has not proved a satisfactory one. It commenced very late, but the increased business done during the months of August and September has somewhat compensated for this late commencement. The total sales for the year show a considerable increase. The Directors propose that in future their annual report shall be made up to 31st October. In accordance with the powers conferred on them, they have appointed Mr. James Bradford, of "Oaklands," Haywards Heath, an additional director of the company. Since the last report they have paid off the then existing mortgages and 5 per cent. debentures, an issue of 70,000*l.* 4 per cent. debenture stock having been made at par to effect this and also to provide additional capital. An official Stock Exchange quotation has been granted for that stock and also for the A preference shares issued in July, 1897. The profit for the year, after charging interest on debentures and writing off depreciation, amounts to 14,013*l.* 18*s.*, which, with 1,168*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* brought forward, shows 15,182*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* standing to the credit of the profit and loss account. It is recommended to pay the various 6 and 7 per cent. preference dividends, absorbing 4,430*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*, to pay 10 per cent. on the A and B ordinary shares (requiring 5,200*l.*), and 5 per cent. on the founders' shares (900*l.*). Of the balance, 1,488*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* is allocated to premium on conversion of debentures, 1,500*l.* to reserve fund, raising that fund to 26,500*l.*, 500*l.* to profit-sharing and benevolent funds, and 1,163*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.* to next year's account. The Directors state that favourable arrangements have been made for extending their Camden Town leases for 999 years, and they express satisfaction with the progress of their branch factories at Southampton and Liverpool. The annual meeting of the shareholders is fixed for December 1, at 3 p.m., at the company's offices, Pratt Street, Camden Town.

BOOTS (LIMITED).—The annual meeting of the shareholders of this company will be held at the George Hotel, Nottingham, on November 30, at 12.30, to receive the directors' report. This report is satisfactory to the shareholders, as it proposes to give a 10-per-cent. dividend on the ordinary shares, being 2 per cent. more than last year. The net trading profit of the year ending September 30 was 16,946*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.* (in 1897 13,781*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*), which, with a balance of 808*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.* from last year, makes 17,755*l.* 8*s.* for distribution. 4,480*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* of this is to go as a 6-per-cent. dividend on the preference shares, 4,938*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* as 10-per-cent. dividend on the ordinary shares, and 10 per cent. as dividend on the deferred shares, all free of income-tax. This absorbs 10,918*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* Further payments recommended are 1,000*l.* to the Branch Managers' (Chemists) Provident Fund, and 750*l.* for management expenses for one year, including directors' remuneration and directors' fees; also to carry 1,286*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.* to reserve against freehold properties, and 3,800*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* to be carried forward to next year "on the strength of which it is proposed that the quarterly dividends on the ordinary shares commencing December 31, 1898, shall be paid at the rate of 12 per cent.

per annum." The registered capital of the company is 180,000*l.*, and of this 143,193*l.* has been issued and called up. On September 30 it had a reserve fund amounting to 46,722*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*, which will be brought up to nearly 50,000*l.* by the sums now recommended to be added. Besides this there is a depreciation fund of 14,194*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.* The freehold and leasehold properties, fixtures, fittings, utensils, mineral-water plant, and goodwill of the company are valued at 177,709*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*, and stock at 60,784*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* It had on September 30 a cash balance of 8,627*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.*, and sundry debtors owed it 937*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*; on the other hand the company owed 29,047*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* to sundry creditors. The directors' report is silent as to what the company has done during the year, confining itself solely to the profits realised, and how they are to be distributed. Last year the directors decided on a bonus, which it was anticipated could be repeated every two or three years, but they are now so satisfied with the position the company has attained, both as to its solidity and as to its earning-powers, that they have resolved to increase the dividend on the ordinary shares already referred to.

Valuation of Lemongrass Oil.

By E. J. PARRY, B.Sc., F.I.C.

IT has been suggested by Mr. J. C. Umney (*C. & D.*, li., page 961) that an estimation of the citral in lemongrass oil should be accepted as the basis of valuation of samples of this oil in commerce. In the note referred to Mr. Umney concludes:—"Certain slight modifications of the process adopted for the estimation of the aldehyde in cassia oil are necessary on account of the presence of methylheptenone (a ketone which forms a compound with acid sulphate of sodium)." There is no doubt that the estimation of the citral would be a desirable basis for such valuation, especially on account of the manufacture of technical "citral" for conversion into ionone being almost, if not entirely, confined to this oil. But I do not think the bisulphite process, with any slight modifications to correct for the presence of methylheptenone, will give more than approximate results. Mixtures of the purest citral and terpenes obtainable I have found on analysis give very variable results if the conditions of the experiment are in the least altered. Not only (as in the case of the absorption of eugenol with potash in oil of cloves) does an appreciable quantity of "absorbable" constituent remain with the "unabsorbable" residue, if I may so speak, but if every care be taken to extract the last trace possible of citral from the hydrocarbons, there always appears to be a variable amount yet to account for.

These differences, which have for some time past troubled me, have just received an explanation at the hands of Professor Tiemann. He has examined a sample of lemongrass oil, which he decided contained 85 per cent. of citral (without correcting for the methylheptenone). Of this he obtained 60 per cent. by separating the crystals of the bisulphite compound; another 17.5 has been accounted for in the oily residue and washings with ether from the crystals but no less than 7.5 per cent. was accounted for by the partial conversion of the citral into water-soluble sulphonio-acid compound, which, Professor Tiemann states, cannot be entirely avoided even by very careful treatment of the citral with the bisulphite.

This note is in no sense intended to suggest that the bisulphite method is not exceedingly valuable, but rather to emphasise the fact that it is probably not any more an estimation of citral than it is in lemon oil, whilst, as a comparative test, it is certainly, as Mr. Umney suggested, one by which the values of samples can be well compared.

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Editorial Comments.

The Optical Examinations.

CONSIDERABLE attention has of late been directed to the optical side-line, and particularly to the spectacle branch of the business. We gave on November 5 a candidate's experience of the Spectacle-makers' Company's examination, and this week we are adding notes on the examinations of the British Optical Association, the other examining body in this subject. From these articles we judge that at both examinations a good standard of excellence is required from candidates. Some critics have professed to fear that competition between the S.M.C. and the B.O.A. may lead to a lowering of the standard. It may, but it is just as likely, we imagine, to have the opposite effect. As a rule, the best men go in for the severest examination in cases where an examination is not compulsory. The two bodies, we understand, are working together in perfect harmony; it is not to the interest of either to bring into the trade unfit men, and both are taking all possible precautions to avoid doing so.

It is open to anyone at present to use the title "optician" and to deal in spectacles, but it is likely that in the near future oculists and the public will recognise the advantages of dealing with a man who can show by a certificate that he knows his business. It is possible, and even probable,

that some parliamentary sanction or protection will be sought by one or both of the examining bodies, but it must be borne in mind that such protection is only granted nowadays when it is to the advantage of the public, and then only with a sufficient reservation of vested interests.

We learn that a fair number of chemists are taking up the optical examinations, and it seems to us that they cannot adopt a more promising auxiliary to their business. After the scientific training they have already undergone, the preparation for one of the examinations we have indicated need not occupy many extra months; the investment necessary to success in the business is rather one of brains than of money, though any chemist adopting it as an addition to his business will be well advised to start with a good and varied stock, and with all the appliances for sight-testing and the like which he can get together. If he can secure the confidence of a local oculist, so much the better. But the oculist must be a reasonable man. In simple cases of sight-failure the public do not go to an oculist to be fitted with glasses any more than they go to a doctor for the simpler medical ailments. Sight-testing, therefore, is a subject which the optician needs to be well practised in. It is not difficult. The majority of cases are of a simple character, and the man who could get either of the diplomas we have referred to would be quite competent to recognise cases requiring the services of the oculist. To the latter should be left the use of mydriatics, the ophthalmoscope, and the retinoscope. Mydriatics are not required in simple cases of ametropic eyes, and nobody is better able to appreciate the dangers of their indiscriminate use than chemists.

It might have been expected that the desire of the S.M.C. and B.O.A. to ensure the competence of those who deal in spectacles could not be open to objection. Singularly enough, it is from certain medical men that the objections, such as they are, have come. According to some of the medical papers the scheme is an attempt to filch away a part of the medical man's practice. One of them has directly attacked Mr. Lindsay Johnson, F.R.C.S., for acting as an examiner to the S.M.C. In reference to that gentleman it seems only fair that we should notice an apparently inspired comment which we find in the *Optician*, as it refers to a part of our report of the S.M.C. examination. It is denied in the paragraph referred to that Mr. Lindsay Johnson put to any candidate any such question as we reported: "What changes take place in the eye in glaucoma?" We have asked our contributor, and are informed that it is true that the question was not put to him in a direct manner. But he states that a conversation took place in which the examiner referred to an interesting case of sudden refractive change in the eye, the purpose of which was apparently to ascertain if he knew what those changes indicated, it being a case in which an optician who did not recognise the cause would do much harm in fitting with glasses. And he adds that specific reference to glaucoma came into the conversation. After all, the medical criticism strikes us as shallow, and not quite creditable, due in some instances to an imperfect acquaintance with the objects of the examinations. We do not care to attribute the opposition entirely to jealousy, but, so far as that sentiment has any weight, it can be best replied to by the remark of Mr. A. A. Wood, at the Mansion House exhibition, that "when medical men were mere shavers of heads and drawers of blood the optician was already a scientific man." The optician even of mediæval days had to devise ways of measuring delicate curves and grinding his glasses to certain measurements, as he had already found that rule-of-thumb methods were unreliable. It is probably from a recollection of what the Apothecaries' Company has

done for medicine that other licentiates fear the competition which may be created by another City company.

Whilst on the subject of optical examinations it may be remarked that chemists who deal in spectacles should adopt some distinctive title—such, for instance, as "chemist-optician"—by which to designate themselves. Such a combination could not be used by persons who are not chemists, and would thus acquire the value of a quasi-protected title.

The Camphor=market.

THE advances which have recently taken place in crude and refined camphor should not have surprised our readers. As early as the month of May we indicated that the crude-camphor market had begun to show signs of rising, as existing stocks were being reduced and supplies were coming to Europe in inadequate volume; but it was not until the end of the summer that this had any real effect upon prices, refiners meanwhile having refused to recognise the position as warranting an upward move. German refiners especially were stuhhorn until the Hamburg market became almost clear of the crude article. On October 1, in summing up the position, we remarked "that the crude-camphor market is likely to be a rising one for months to come. Refiners naturally fight against the conditions as long as they can, as dear camphor is no boon to them, and the halfpenny rises express their reluctance to bow to the inevitable, but ere long, we fear, halfpennies will give way to pennies." So events have proved. On November 7 English refiners, losing patience at German dawdling, took the initiative and raised their prices by a penny per lb.; the German refiners did the same the week following by two halfpenny rises. This week English refiners have added another penny, and the Germans seconded that effort by three farthings. Reasons for this were stated in our Trade Report last week. The crude market has followed the refined, and on Tuesday a good deal of business was done in Chinese camphor at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cwt., c.i.f. On the present basis the refiners are at a disadvantage compared with what they were in June, when crude camphor touched its lowest point—81s per cwt. for Chinese. Then the price of refined was as 10 to 6 for the crude, now the ratio is as 10 to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$; and, as 10 to 6 is nearer the normal condition, it is evident that refined camphor is relatively cheaper than the crude. The future of the article will be determined chiefly by two factors—viz., the action of holders in China and Japan, and the demand for refined camphor to meet spring trade. The present rise is directly due to the firmness of the Eastern holders. They are understood to have information from the distilling-fields which justifies their demand for higher rates, and certainly the Formosan exports this year have been abnormally low, while the exports to Europe up to October 15 have been a third less than last year in the same time—viz., 13,633 piculs, as compared with 22,183 in 1897. The Japanese holders are even firmer than the Chinese, and American refiners have been buying freely from them in anticipation of a rise. Until the beginning of October the London market was slow to respond to the Eastern example, but second-hand holders, including the Camphor Syndicate, took advantage of the firmness to clear a large part of their stock, and it is believed that there is now not much of this old stuff to be had. "Not much" is a relative term, for it is vain to dogmatise on the London stocks of crude camphor, because part of it is kept in private warehouses, and holders are clever enough to clear what they have in public warehouses for an obvious reason. Nevertheless, we have to face the fact that there were 11,438 piculs in public warehouses at the beginning of the year, and now (i.e., on October 31) this stock has been reduced to 9,258,

the deliveries during the year having been 4 610, and the imports 2,426. Stocks in Canton and Hong Kong, which fluctuated between 7,000 and 8 000 piculs up to the end of September, are now said to be reduced to 5,000, or at the most 6,000 piculs. The statistical position, therefore, shows that the advance is natural, just as the purchases have been to meet consumptive demand. The second factor we have to reckon with is the demand for refined camphor, which begins early in the year. Already some merchants have taken the precaution to make contracts well ahead at the recent low rates, and, although it is impossible to say how far these contracts go, it is evident that refiners who cannot contract for the crude article in the same way must cover any loss on low contracts for refined by higher prices later on. The feeling on the market now is that the advance is just beginning. How far it will go no one knows, and we shall not predict, except to state that another penny per lb. is to be put on the refined to-morrow (Friday).

Belgian Pharmacy.

A BILL has been prepared by a Government Commission for the Belgian Parliament "To Regulate the Practice of the Various Branches of the Art of Healing." It consists of 80 sections, and deals with Pharmacists, Dentists, Veterinary Surgeons, and Midwives, but only incidentally with Physicians and Surgeons.

In drafting the provisions applicable to Pharmacy the Commission appears to have taken seriously all the claims and contentions put forward at Pharmaceutical Congresses and on other occasions when professors and theorists get the opportunity to air their views, so far as these are reconcilable one with another. Clause 19 of the Bill is apparently intended as the Charter of the profession. It declares that the preparation, exposure for sale, and sale by retail of all medicaments whatsoever for use in human or veterinary medicine, shall constitute the Pharmacists' monopoly. There are certain modifications of this article in favour of existing druggists (who, however, are to be extinguished in the future), of physicians, dentists, and veterinary surgeons under certain conditions, and in respect of substances which, though employed in medicine, are also required in the arts, in manufactures, as food, or for domestic purposes. The Government is to prepare a schedule of medicaments the sale of which is reserved for Pharmacists, and this list is to be printed in the Pharmacopœia. A maximum retail price is to be affixed to this list, and the Government is also authorised to arrange a minimum tariff, below which drugs are not to be supplied to charitable institutions. Power is reserved to admit to practice Pharmacists holding foreign diplomas, but in any case where this is granted the foreign Pharmacist will be required to pass an examination in the Belgian Pharmacopœia. Pharmacists may not practise medicine, dentistry, or veterinary surgery along with their own profession, they may not cover any unqualified person, and contracts made with outside persons to share profits in medicines, or tenders for the supply of medicines at a fixed price for a definite time, are to be invalid. Physicians' prescriptions are to be so written as to be capable of being compounded in any Pharmacy in the country, and they are to be kept in proper order for ten years. No Pharmacist is to conduct more than one Pharmacy.

There are two or three clauses in the Bill which seem to be especially directed against the sale of proprietary articles. Section 13, for instance, authorises the Government to issue complementary provisions; section 24 requires that compound medicines not prepared for a special case, or from a prescription, or at the purchaser's request, may not be sold

or distributed or exposed for sale, unless the qualitative composition is very legibly stated on the label, or the Pharmacopœia formula from which it is made is indicated; and section 25 requires the Government to prepare a list of dangerous medicines which are not to be sold at all, either in simple or compound form, except on a medical prescription. Such a list has already been drawn up by the Commission, and is found to contain not only such alkaloids as aconitine and atropine, but such medicaments as preparations of poppies and of opium, morphia, chloral, santolin, cocaine, chloroform, most mercurials, antipyrine, phenacetine, caffeine, colchicum, preparations of arsenic and of nuxvomica, sulphonal, and phenic acid of greater strength than 2½ per cent.

It is obvious that this list must seriously affect the sale of a number of popular proprietary medicines, and, moreover, it is capable of being indefinitely extended. It will affect French manufactures much more than those of this country, and it is not unlikely that in regard to French specialities the provision will be found to be unenforceable under the existing Treaty of Commerce between France and Belgium, which expressly provided for the free importation of French specialities, in exchange for certain concessions in favour of Belgian coals. In spite of rhetorical denunciations of "la spécialité," the business section of Belgian pharmacists is by no means anxious to have its affairs crippled, as they would be by this Bill. On their behalf an association, called "La Mutualité Pharmaceutique Belge," founded in 1881, is energetically opposing the anti-speciality proposals.

We do not know what may be the prospects of the Bill, but, if passed, we are confident that any attempt to make it operative would break down within a month. Whatever the proposers may say or think, the public want the specialities and will have them. It is not likely that the British Government will make any representations to Belgium on a matter of this kind, though it is pretty certain that the French Foreign Office will intervene. But if any English manufacturer should consider his interests affected by the measure, his only means of complaining is through Lord Salisbury, as Foreign Secretary.

Medico=analysts.

THE first examination under the new regulations has been held by the Institute of Chemistry, and the pass-list is just published. It is probably well known that the Council of the Institute has started an examination in therapeutics, pharmacology, and microscopy, open only to Fellows or Associates of the Institute, for which a certificate is granted especially with a view to qualifying further for the post of public analyst. It is also an open secret that the examination is not a popular affair with many of the Fellows; indeed, it is generally believed that a small circle within the Council is responsible for it. Its unpopularity is proved by the fact that at the first examination only seven Fellows and two Associates presented themselves, of whom six passed. The six are Messrs. R. A. Cripps, J. A. Foster, Norman Leonard, J. Nimmo, P. Gerald Sanford, and A. Swetham. The examiner was Dr. Stevenson. The following papers were set, the former to four and the latter to three candidates:—

I.

1. Examine by the microscope the rhubarb marked A, and report as to its purity.
2. Examine by the microscope the mustard marked D, and report as to its purity.
3. What are the effects on the human body of the daily administration of small quantities of arsenic? What amount of arsenic taken daily is likely to prove injurious to the adult?
4. What are the maximum safe doses for an adult of each of

the following substances:—Opium, hydrocyanic acid (2 per cent. solution), and sodium arsenate?

5. Discuss the use of borates as food-preservatives from a health point of view.

II.

1. Examine by the microscope the ginger marked C, and report as to its purity.

2. Examine by the microscope the pepper marked D, and report as to its purity.

3. What are the effects on the human body of the daily administration of small quantities of antimony salts? What amount of tartar emetic taken daily is likely to prove injurious to an adult?

4. What are the maximum safe doses for an adult of each of the following substances:—Morphine hydrochloride, strychnine hydrochloride, potassium cyanide?

5. Discuss from a health point of view the use of formaldehyde as a food-preservative.

It is doubtless a very good thing that public analysts should know all these things, but why should the Institute of Chemistry give certificates on medical subjects and on matters relating to public health? Professional chemists are jealous of medical practitioners who practise as analysts; but here we find the only qualifying body connected with professional chemistry encouraging its members to qualify themselves in medicine according to the standard of the Institute of Chemistry. The Institute of Chemistry is doing what the Pharmacy Acts prohibit in the case of chemists and druggists. Section 8 of the 1852 Act states that the pharmaceutical "examinations shall not include the theory and practice of medicine, surgery, or midwifery." This was inserted to conserve the interests of medical practitioners. Surely the collateral branch of chemistry represented by the Institute should observe the spirit of this statutory proviso.

THE NEW B.P.

We are informed that, as the 20,000 copies of the British Pharmacopœia, 1898, originally printed have already passed into circulation, a reprint has been ordered, and the opportunity has been taken of indicating a few manifest errors and misprints, which are as follows:—"Page 237, line 31, for 0.0285 read 0.0283; page 266, line 3, omit chlorides; page 462, fourth column, line 6, for 1 grm. read 0.5 grm.; page 495, third column, line 12, for 5 to 10 m. read 2 to 8 m.; page 511, first column, line 35, insert Compound after Tincture of; page 519, first column, line 26, for Spirit Compositus read — Compositus (= Spiritus Ætheris Compositus)." Copies of a slip containing these may be obtained from the publishers, Messrs. Spottiswoode & Co., 54 Gracechurch Street, London; but, to save time, those who have the Pharmacopœia in their possession should make these corrections at once.

B.P. OPIUM.

Following up our recent comments upon the lowered standard of B.P. opium, the *New York Commercial* has inquired what effect this will have on the American market. Mr. Thomas P. Cook, of the New York Chemical and Quinine Company, replied:—

I do not see how the reduction in the British standard can effect our opium-market in any way. The percentage of morphine in opium imported here can be not less than 9 per cent., owing to the Customs regulations, and as our supply usually contains a much larger percentage than that, and as the British reduction has nothing to do with that supply, there is no reason why we should be concerned in the lower standard adopted over there.

The 9 per cent. which the United States Customs takes as its minimum standard means 9 per cent. in the natural moist opium, which is practically equivalent to the U.S.P. standard for the dried drug.

THE "C. & D." IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

We have received an intimation from our Australian office stating that the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales have unanimously resolved to make a

contract with us to supply the *Chemist and Druggist* (London) and the *Chemist and Druggist of Australasia* regularly to the whole of their members. The contract dates from November 1, 1898. For some years the Society published, and latterly has subsidised, a *Pharmaceutical Journal of New South Wales*. It has been decided to discontinue this publication in favour of ours. This makes fourteen pharmaceutical societies which now contract with us for the supply of our journal to all their members. New South Wales has gone ahead so rapidly in commercial matters within the past few years, and its fiscal policy has made it so important in its relations with the Mother Country, that we regard this contract with especial satisfaction from the point of view of our advertisers' interests.

THE "GROGGING" REGULATIONS.

What is known as "grogging" has been a source of trouble to the Excise for a number of years. This operation is—or, rather, was—carried out by putting a little water into empty spirit-casks and rolling them about at intervals for a day or two till the spirit was extracted from the wood. About a gallon of proof spirit could be obtained from a good-sized cask, and it is said that several enterprising persons made a very profitable business out of buying up casks that had contained strong spirit and sweating them in this way. Some years ago the practice was prohibited with casks that had contained duty-free spirit, and the last Revenue Act extends the prohibition to all casks. The strict letter of the new law prohibits the "grogging," or even the washing and cleansing, of casks that have contained spirituous liquors under any circumstances whatever. By a new General Order just issued, however, the Commissioners seem to be willing to give facilities for cleansing and washing casks where manufacturing or trade purposes render this necessary. The Order allows the use of a small quantity of water for the purpose of rinsing out the whole of the spirit when the cask is emptied. But for this concession manufacturing chemists and others using spirit of wine would have had to suffer an appreciable loss each time a cask was emptied. Rectifiers, under certain restrictions, are also permitted to cleanse and decolourise rum-casks, and no doubt similar facilities will be given to other traders who may have occasion to extract colouring-matter from casks which have contained coloured spirits or liquids containing spirits. Without such permission this is, of course, now illegal, and should never be attempted without the express permission of the Excise.

AMERICAN MEDICINES FOR CHINA.

Americans appear to be getting awake to the business which can be done in rational medicines amongst the Chinese. Mr. Cornelius Loder, the Secretary of the American Drug-trade Protection Society (which is new to us), has informed his Association what Consul Gardner and Dr. Cousland have recently said in the *C. & D.*—that the Chinese are losing faith in the antiquated methods of their own doctors, and, influenced largely by the labours of medical missionaries, are now ready to adopt Western medicines. Mr. Loder sees in this change a happy omen for American drug-exporters. "Throughout the vast interior of China," he says, "there are practically no opportunities afforded to the natives to purchase Western drugs, and when it is remembered that the population of China reaches the vast total of over 400,000,000 inhabitants, it will be admitted that excellent opportunities are afforded for establishing a vigorous trade. Under the new regulations all goods shipped into the interior of China become exempt from paying further duty beyond a transit-charge of 2½ per cent. *ad valorem*, and, as there is no import-duty on drugs, this is the only Custom charge required; so that in reality the only expense entailed in sending the goods from the United

States to the Chinese field is the cost of transportation." We question the accuracy of Mr. Loder's statement regarding internal revenue, as the Mandarins of provinces are exceedingly fond of exacting tribute by making the 2½ per cent. chargeable at every station passed by foreign goods. However, the American Association proposes to form a company to carry out Mr. Loder's views, the specialities of the shareholders of the company to have preference in the start of the campaign.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM.

At a meeting of the Court of Governors of Mason College, held at Birmingham, last Friday, under the presidency of the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, it was resolved to take the necessary measures to obtain a Royal Charter for the establishment of a university in Birmingham. The faculties of Mason College are to form the nucleus; but other colleges, such as Bristol, may be affiliated to the new university, and Mr. Chamberlain indicated that a faculty of commercial education would be added to arts, medicine, and science. Mason College has an endowment of 200,000*l.*, and this it is proposed to appropriate; but another 200,000*l.* will be required to complete the endowment. This making of universities seems to be viewed with suspicion in some quarters, especially by those to whom Cambridge and Oxford are the expression of culture; but Mr. Chamberlain especially disclaimed imitation of these ancient seats of learning. "We are not," he said, "merely imitating, at a distance, in a small way, the work of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. A provincial university ought to be in some sense distinctive. It ought to have a stamp of its own. In my opinion, it ought to be redolent of the soil, and inspired by the associations in which it exists." Pushed to its logical conclusion, this means that a university situated in a manufacturing-district like Birmingham will benefit the trade of the district by fostering higher study of industrial technique. Apart from this, we have examples of the good influence of university life in the four universities of Scotland, which for centuries have been at work with splendid results. And what is possible in a comparatively poor country should not be futile in such a rich and populous centre as Birmingham, where the educational facilities exist without the finishing touch which university powers give to college education.

PRECEDENCE OF PRESIDENTS.

Mr. Brudenell Carter has been inquiring at the College of Arms, on behalf of the General Medical Council, as to the status of that body among public corporations. The occasion of the inquiry dates back to the Jubilee, when the General Medical Council were astounded to find themselves utterly ignored. They neither figured in the procession nor got free seats at St. Paul's, and they resolved "to take such steps as should be necessary" to secure for themselves "due recognition and representation in national functions and ceremonies." This was what took Mr. Brudenell Carter to the College of Arms. We are not quite sure whether the College of Arms is itself a State department or whether it is a commercial enterprise; as the Medical Council seem to accept the ruling of the College, we presume it is, to a certain extent, authoritative. But that ruling is fatal to the Council's loyal aspirations. Mr. Brudenell Carter reports that "there is no such recognition and representation" of corporate bodies as they demand. The Earl Marshal, or whoever directs the ceremonies involved, asks whom he pleases. "There are no rights or privileges in relation to the matter." Nor is there such a thing as precedence of any profession over any other. "There is no common measure between law, physic, and divinity." From another part of Mr. Brudenell Carter's report it appears that the College of Arms only recognises seniority as a claim to pre-

cedence. So that, if the General Medical Council want at any time to figure in the Lord Mayor's procession, they will have to come a long way behind the Skinners, the Carriers, and the Tinplate-workers; behind the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons; and, worst of all, behind the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

'PATENTS' AT THE CAPE.

Although there is no hope of the Cape Parliament getting its Pharmacy Bill through this Session, the London Chamber of Commerce thinks that it should make surety doubly sure by bringing its influence to bear upon the Parliament with the view of getting the objectionable patent-medicine clause deleted. When we called attention to the matter early in the summer the Chemical Section of the Chamber looked into it, and its labours, though hidden in darkness (at least to us), culminated on Wednesday, when a joint meeting of the Chemical Section and the South African Section was held in the Chamber's rooms, Eastcheap. The Chemical Section was not over represented, Mr. Thomas Tyrer (chairman), Mr. Thomas Christy, Mr. Goddard Clarke, and Mr. E. J. Millard being present; but the South African Section was in greater force, and Mr. Dyer, its chairman, presided. He told the meeting all he could about the Bill, but awoke little enthusiasm. Then Mr. Tyrer submitted a statement in the following terms to be put before the Council of the Chamber for action, and by the force of his oratory succeeded in having it adopted by the meeting:—

At the large representative meeting of the trade, which was held last week, there was a general agreement that if the proposed Bill came into force it would have the effect of entirely stopping the trade in patent or proprietary medicines in Cape Colony. It goes without saying, that such a result would be very detrimental to the interests of the manufacturers both in this country and America, and it would also have the effect of drying up the Customs Revenue of 25 per cent. on these goods, which at present is derived from their importation to the Cape. To this extent Government would be affected. The British Government has always recognised vested interests, and when we say that hundreds of thousands of pounds have been spent in building up a trade in various patent or proprietary medicines in the colony, it will be seen what a serious injustice will be done to those who have invested that capital if the trade is killed, as must result if this clause is carried; for, if the proprietor is called upon to disclose the exact composition of his article for the Cape, it would mean, of course, disclosing it for the whole world, so that such proprietors would be compelled to forego their trade in the colony. It would also destroy the value of trade-marks the Cape Government thought fit to grant. A very large number of people in the colonies have used for years, and have derived great benefit from, some of the best-known proprietary medicines, which, in nearly all cases, are compounded in accordance with physicians' prescriptions, and were the sale of these to be stopped, the public would suffer great inconvenience. There must be many districts in Cape Colony where doctors are few and far between, and in these places it must be extremely handy to have well-known and old-established remedies at hand for minor ailments. It would also prevent any chemist putting up his own medicines, and cripple pharmaceutical research.

From the discussion we gather that the Chemical Section's representatives hold strong views about the patent-medicine clause. Their version of its origin is that chemists in the Cape have encouraged the clause in the hope that with a measure of protection, and the declaration of the composition of proprietary medicines, which the Bill, if enacted, would require, they would be able to put good substitutes on the market. This statement is not consistent with information which we have received from the Cape, and is, we believe, exaggerated, but it will suffice, we hope, to make the proprietary articles manufacturers and dealers watch the Bill very closely. They have been doing so, we may say, a meeting having been held as soon as the nature of the Bill was known on this side, and a committee of the leading London houses and manufacturers directly interested still exists to watch the measure. The trade at the Cape should have something to say about their attitude towards the measure.

The British Optical Association's Examinations.

IN our issue of November 5 last we published details of the first optical examination instituted by the Spectacle-makers' Company. This was an account from the pen of an actual candidate, and from it may be gathered a very fair idea of the scope and character of that examination.

We have occasionally referred to the examinations held periodically by the British Optical Association, and, as many chemists are taking a considerable interest in this subject just now, we have obtained from a gentleman who was present at the last examination, held in the Birkbeck Institute, Chancery Lane, W.C., of the B.O.A. (but not as a candidate) a detailed report of the proceedings.

It may be explained that there are three grades of B.O.A. examinations, known as the Optic, the Dioptric, and the Ophthalmometric grade respectively. The fees for these are one and a half, three, and five guineas respectively. Candidates are required to pass the optic grade before proceeding to the higher grades.

THE OPTIC GRADE.

Our observer, who was kindly aided by Mr. Sutcliffe, jun., the Secretary of the Association, describes the examination as follows:—

On my arrival, I found Mr. Howell, F.B.O.A., in charge, assisted by a few members of the Council. The chief examinations were held in the large Art School, and the subsidiary ones in the two adjacent rooms.

Each candidate had been previously furnished with a paper bearing his number and grade; the time, date, and place of his examination were all stated on the document, and a footnote was added instructing him that on no account was his name to be furnished to the examiners. He was then conducted to the examiner in charge of optical frames, lenses, &c. This portion, representing the practical part of the examination, is incumbent upon every candidate, no matter to what grade he may aspire.

On this occasion, Mr. Lancaster, F.B.O.A., who descends from a well-known stock of practical working opticians, was the examiner, assisted by Mr. M. W. Dunscombe, F.B.O.A., F.R.M.S., whose exhibition of historic spectacles will be recollected by visitors to the Victorian Era Exhibition. On a large table was set out an immense variety of gold and steel spectacle and eyeglass frames, and on an adjacent one a collection of polished, rough, and unmounted lenses.

The questions here asked were about the quality, workmanship, and value, and in some cases the origin of the frames. At this stage of the examination "book" knowledge of the subject is not sufficient. Candidates were dealt with at this table in from ten to twenty-five minutes, according to their several abilities. They were required to "neutralise" or "flatten" four or five combination lenses. One lens in particular—a prismatic sphero-cylinder—seemed to be somewhat of a "teaser." Another lens given for neutralisation and description was what was termed by one candidate a "bastard lens"—i.e., one that was so badly ground that there were several separate foci in the lens. Questions were asked on centreing and decentration. The questions were given in no particular set order, and were varied to suit each candidate. As the particular candidate I was watching had entered for the optic grade, he was then given the following paper of questions, for answering which one hour was allowed:—

1. Show how images formed by concave lenses are always virtual, erect, and diminished.
2. Make diagrams showing refractions by a medium with parallel sides, and by a prism, respectively.
3. Make sectional diagrams of the various lenses in vogue.
4. Make a diagram showing how a lens may have the effect of a prism.
5. Make diagrams showing respectively a real and a virtual image formed by a convex lens.
6. Give the meaning of the following frame measurements: C to C $2\frac{1}{2}$, level, flush. And of the following terms: Pantoscopic, periscope, orthoscopic, meniscus.

THE DIOPTRIC GRADE.

I next followed the examination of a candidate for the dioptric grade. He had brought quite an alarming array of appliances, trial-cases, and test-charts, which took some little time to unpack. In reply to my inquiry why each candidate had to bring his own appliances, Mr. Sutcliffe told me that formerly the Association provided a test-case and charts for the use of the candidates, but that in many cases candidates complained that the test-types were slightly different or that the test-lenses were differently numbered from those to which they were accustomed, and that this confused them. Moreover, it was an advantage for the examiners to see the appliances a man was in the habit of using, so justifying the adage that "a workman is known by his tools."

After the aspirant for dioptric honours had laid out his accessories and fixed up his charts, test-types, &c., he was asked to consecutively test the vision of four separate eyes—that is to say, he had to test, perhaps, one eye of his first patient, and, it might be, a pair of the next one, and so on. I was told that three separate test-chairs had been occupied for nearly the whole day. It must have been rather lively for the subjects. The candidate I was watching had the following cases:—One each of (1) mixed astigmatism, (2) simple deep myopia (this subject had had an operation of iridectomy), (3) slight hypermetropia with presbyopia, (4) compound myopic astigmatism. I was told that credit is given for speed, but chiefly for "method and system"—in point of fact, a correct result realised by chance or by possible prompting will not obtain marks.

System, above all things, is absolutely necessary.

In the "Hints to Candidates" published by the Association some time ago, candidates were requested not to bring or use at the examinations any appliances or accessories to the use of which they were unaccustomed. Notwithstanding this advice, one gentleman at a recent examination gravely admitted that he was unable to fill up or explain the book of prescriptions he had brought, as he had only bought it that morning!

Our candidate was furnished with a sheet of paper bearing his number and grade, on which he was requested to make notes of the case he was testing. This paper was afterwards collected and placed with his other papers. After he had passed through the testing ordeal, he was taken to another portion of the room, where he was given the following set of written questions, for which he was allowed about an hour:—

1. What is meant by spherical aberration?
2. Transpose the following lenses into other combinations:

(a) - 1.75 cyl. axis 45°	() + 3.25 cyl. axis 135°
(b) + 3.00 sph.	() - 1.50 cyl. axis 105°
(c) + 1.25 sph.	() + 2.75 cyl. axis 90°
3. A pair of split bi-focal spectacles requires a reading lens to R eye, give the formula for this lens.

- 1.75 sph.
- 1.50 cyl., axis 45°.

- 2.00 sph.
- 1.25 cyl., axis 145°.

+ 0.25 sph.
- 1.25 cyl., axis 145°.

4. Write a short essay on myopia and its refractive treatment, not to exceed about 200 words.
5. Give a short description of the refracting surfaces of the eye. Illustrate your reply with diagrams, &c., showing the visual angle, and retinal images.
6. Explain the differences between the terms (Sn. 0.50 and J. I.), and give a reason for their combined usage in prescriptions.
7. Illustrate by diagrams the following rule:—
 "The refractive power of a lens varies inversely as its focal length."
8. With how many kinds of astigmatism are you acquainted?

THE OPHTHALMOMETRIC GRADE.

This, the highest grade, is a very searching examination, a high standard of ophthalmoscopic and refractive ability

being expected. The written part of this grade comes first. Two hours were allowed for the following questions:—

1. Under what visual conditions of the eye do you consider it inadvisable to prescribe glasses?
2. In dislocation of the crystalline lens, the periphery of the lens being located, say, in the middle of the pupil, how would you prescribe lenses to assist the refraction for distance?
3. How would you diagnose tobacco amblyopia?
4. How would you measure scotoma?
5. Give a diagram of cortical cataract as it appears by focal illumination.
6. Give a diagram of the same as it appears by mirror examination.
7. What are the indications that would lead you to suspect incipient glaucoma?
8. In a case of compound myopic or hypermetropic astigmatism, after correcting the vertical and horizontal meridians (this result being obtained with the fan lines), what course would you pursue, or what would you infer? (A diagram was attached showing the vertical and horizontal lines well defined and the oblique lines blurred.)
9. What kind of glasses usually give relief in simple mydriasis?
10. Explain the following terms:—(a) Oxyopia. (b) Hemipopia. (c) Heterophoria. (d) Exophoria.

The practical part of this examination follows, and in this the candidate is asked as to the methods he would employ in certain cases of apparently irremedial loss of sight, eye-strain, &c. Mr. John Browning and Mr. Sutcliffe examined in this grade.

These are examinations which several chemists have taken up already. The official Secretary is Mr. J. H. Sutcliffe, Clifton Chambers, Blackpool, who will send particulars of the February examination to anyone for them.

Out of the 12 candidates examined on the occasion reported only one failed. The failures have usually averaged about one-third.

Marriages.

ALLEN—ACHESON.—At Sligo, on November 9, J. Purser Allen, M.P.S.I., of Talbot Street, Dublin, to Myra Jane, eldest daughter of Mr. G. Acheson, Dunnecree House, Drumsna, co. Leitrim.

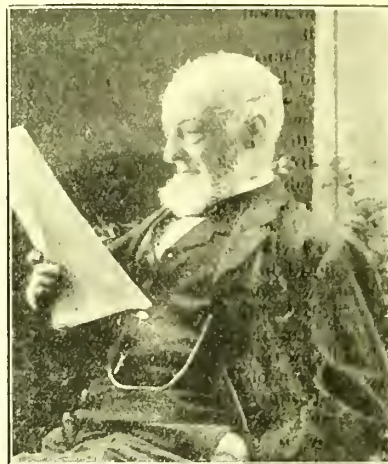
GALL—JEFFERY.—On October 16, at Westbourne Church, Frederic Gall, chemist, Landport, to Margaret Ellen Jeffery, of Emsworth.

THOMAS—BONNER-THOMAS.—On November 23, at the Tabernacle Chapel, Portmadoc, John S. Thomas, chemist, Llanfair P.G., Anglesey, to Annie, third daughter of R. Bonner-Thomas, Portmadoc.

Deaths.

ASHMORE.—On November 14, at 49 Nevern Square, S.W. Mr. Charles Townshend Ashmore, senior partner in the firm of Messrs. Ashmore & Son, 6 Mincing Lane, E.C. Aged 77. The deceased gentleman was a well-known personality in the drug-trade and a familiar figure in Mincing Lane and the Commercial Sale-rooms up till a year ago, when he retired from active participation in the business of his house, leaving its interests in the hands of his sons, Mr. A. H. Ashmore (now the senior partner) and Mr. H. L. Ashmore. The business is now in its third generation, having been founded early in the century by Mr. Thomas Ashmore, who had experience of the wholesale drug-trade in one of the historic houses, and who when starting for himself left out the strictly pharmaceutical part, developing the raw-produce business. In this he succeeded so well that when his two sons came of age he was able to take them both into the business, which continued to grow, especially in its American interests, so that ultimately one son settled in the United States on his own account, leaving his brother, Mr. Charles T. Ashmore, sole proprietor of the old business. The firm was well known as the agents for Messrs. Dodge & Olcott, of New York City, who have large dealings in rhubarb, musk, and other rich staples, and these Messrs. Ashmore & Sons have bought for them at this side, at the

same time selling the D. & O. essential oils. Latterly the firm, under the energies of the younger partners, have developed an important business in Manila hemp. Those who knew Mr. Charles Ashmore intimately esteemed him



highly, and his retirement from the Lane has not diminished the regret at his loss. He died from heart-failure, passing away peacefully and without pain. Mrs. Ashmore pre-deceased him, and he is survived by his sons and several daughters.

JONES.—At Bristol, on November 21, Mr. Enoch Henry Jones, chemist and druggist. Aged 54. The late Mr. Jones had been in business in Bristol for over thirty years.

KERRY.—At Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury, on November 14, Mr. Thomas Kerry, chemist and druggist. Aged 67.

PRENTICE.—At Felixstowe, on November 20, Mr. Manning Prentice, chemical-manufacturer. Aged 52. Mr. Prentice was well known in agricultural circles in Norfolk and Suffolk. He was for some time Chairman of the North-West Suffolk Liberal Association, and represented Stowmarket on the East Suffolk County Council. He was also a member of Stowmarket Urban Council.

ROSS.—On November 17, at the residence of his father, Market Street, Sligo, Archibald Clark Ross, L.P.S.I., late senior-assistant in the pharmacy of Mr. W. F. Wells, ex-President, Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. Mr. Ross, though in failing health for some time past, carried off with distinction the Pharmaceutical Society's gold medal, which was awarded to him at the opening school-meeting of the Society, held recently. His death on the threshold of a brilliant career will be learned with deep regret by his many pharmaceutical friends.

Sir Frederick Abel's Poetry.

At the recent banquet of the Chemical Society, Sir Edward Frankland mentioned that thirty-three years ago, at a dinner-party composed chiefly of chemists, held at the Albion, Sir F. Abel, in an after-dinner speech, expressed himself in blank verse as follows:—

Looking to right and to left, I see many faces around me,
Faces so old and familiar I feel once again at the College,
Testing, as in former times, for chlorine with nitrate of silver,
Gazing with youthful delight at crystals just hatched in a beaker,
Yearning o'er aniline drops distilling from crystal alembic.
O! my dear friends, one and all, we have toiled up a difficult
pathway!

Some are low down on the hill, and others are near to the summit.

Let us remember the past and forget not our absent companions
Fortune may come to us all; but youth will return to us never

We would not exactly call that "blank verse," but it is pretty, reminiscent of "Evangeline," and the sentiment still appropriate.

General Medical Council.

THE autumn session of the medical parliament was opened in London on November 22, Sir William Turner (President) in the chair. The inaugural presidential address was a much more laconic affair than we have been accustomed to, possibly because no very burning subjects are to be brought before the Council. It was largely devoted to a statement setting forth the progress that has been made in obtaining an amendment of the law having for object to prevent the holder of a medical diploma or degree from using the title or titles when his name has been erased from the official list for unprofessional conduct. At present a medical practitioner whose name has been thus transferred from the *recto* to the *verso* retains possession of his qualification unless and until the diploma or degree conferring body in its turn cancels or withdraws it or them. This secondary mutilation does not always follow the preliminary operation, some of the bodies abstaining from so doing because they have not the power, and others because they have not the will, to complete the punitive sentence. Magistrates have declined to punish men for continuing to use titles which they in fact possess, and the disciplinary measures of the Council are thus deprived in part of their sting. The President related how, after consultation with the Privy Council, clauses had been drafted which will be embodied in a Bill provided that no opposition is offered by the bodies whose diplomas and degrees will be affected thereby.

REFORM OF DEATH-CERTIFICATION.

Another interesting question referred to in the address was death-certification and the amendment of the law relating thereto. An assurance has been obtained from the Under Secretary of State for the Home Department that the matter has for some time been under consideration with a view to an amendment of the law, and a communication is to be made by the Home Office to the Local Government Board on the subject.

THE COMPANIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Committee appointed in May last to devise measures for putting a stop to the registration of companies to carry on medical, surgical, and dental practice have had clauses drafted by Mr. Muir Mackenzie with this object in view, and these have been placed in the hands of the Lord Chancellor, who, it is hoped, will "do the necessary."

STATE RECOGNITION OF THE COUNCIL.

Piqued by the neglect of the authorities to invite the members of Council to assist at Gladstone's funeral ceremony, an attempt has been made to obtain an assurance that the Council will in future receive official recognition when there is any state ceremony going on, only, however, to learn that "as regards recognition and representation in national functions and ceremonies, no corporate body has any vested right of participation."

SALE OF THE BRITISH PHARMACOPOEIA.

The President announced that the first edition of 20,000 copies of the Pharmacopœia, issued in the spring of this year, had been sold out, and that 1,500 additional copies had had to be struck off to meet immediate demands. Of this number 500 have already been sold.

RESIGNATION OF DR. SIDNEY COUPLAND.

In conclusion, he announced the resignation of Dr. Coupland, whose reports as Inspector of the examinations of the Apothecaries' Hall of Dublin will shortly come before the Council, consequent upon his appointment as commissioner in lunacy.

A POINT OF PROCEDURE.

A good deal of time was devoted to a nice point of procedure—viz., whether a member who has abstained from voting on the show of hands is entitled to vote when the count is verified by calling over the names. Most of the members of the Council had something to say on the matter, and, when they had said it, the President formally ruled that they could.

SERVICE EXAMINATIONS.

In receiving the usual tables of the successful candidates for the services, Dr. McVail called attention to the comparatively large proportion of successes credited to the Conjoint Board in England, as compared with the proportions which obtained of candidates from other examining Boards. He suggested that the matter was one which might be looked into by the Examination Committee. Though not formally expressed, this suggestion really contains a reflection on the fairness of the examiners, who are inferentially accused of displaying an unfair preference for London men. Sir Dyce Duckworth, as a past examiner for the Navy Medical Service, explained that there could be no preference, seeing that the candidates were only known to the examiners as numerical entities; but this explanation, though doubtless technically correct, is not quite complete. Dr. McVail's motion to make it a rule to refer this matter in future to the Examination Committee was lost, however, on a vote, as it deserved to be, for it is difficult to see what good could accrue from such a reference. If a majority of London men succeed, it is doubtless because, taking them all round, they are superior to their provincial rivals, and, in any event, the Army medical authorities are not likely to modify their ways and doings in deference to any suggestion emanating from the Examination or any other committee.

INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS.

This is a sequel to the lively passage of arms which took place last session between Mr. Victor Horsley and the President of Council in respect of the right of members to inspect documents. According to the standing order agreed to last session, members desiring communication of certain documents must ask permission to have access thereto either from the President, the Executive Committee, or from the Council itself. Mr. Horsley preferred the latter course, and in spite of the opposition of Dr. McAlister, the self-appointed custodian of the Council's archives, he succeeded in carrying his point—viz., that his request should be considered forthwith. The first motion for the production of documents stood in the name of Mr. George Brown, who was anxious to be placed in possession of the documents bearing on the case of Mr. H. Kingsley Hunter, since deceased, who was recently prosecuted at the instance of the Council for having made use of the titles "physician and surgeon," he being a simple apothecary. This motion was carried, and Mr. Horsley was equally successful in his demand for documents concerning one Hamilton, an unregistered person. This emboldened him to demand the communication of all documents relating to one Allinson, also an unregistered person, and again he was successful. On the whole, it is difficult to see what the President has gained by his red-tape refusal of documents to which it is evident that members of the Council have a vested right of access. Defeated, but not disheartened, the President suggested, and it was agreed, that certain difficulties should nevertheless be placed in the way of the inspection of these documents in respect of time and place.

PENAL CASES.

Wednesday is the day on which it is usual to take the penal cases, and, in accordance with custom, one Charles Alexander Duckett, of Homerton, was called upon to answer a charge of "covering" arising from a communication made by the Coroner to the Council. As the charge had not been taken up by the Medical Defence Union, practically the only evidence brought forward was the depositions, and these were not convincing; so the defendant was discharged with a verdict of "not proven."

REPENTANTS.

Various applications for restoration to the Register, which had been considered and reported upon by the Executive Committee, were then discussed. Most of them were decided in accordance with the committee's recommendations—that is to say, they were refused. The list included applications from Mr. W. J. Patterson, Mr. R. I. Robertson, Dr. R. A. Douglas Lithgow, and Dr. Herbert Tibbits, while one, that of Mr. Alfred Freeman, was adjourned.

FURTHER PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS.

Mr. Horsley obtained the consent of the Council to the production of the documents *re* Dr. Farrar, and then he

asked that the lawyers' bill of costs for 1897 should be produced for inspection, and this too was conceded; indeed it is difficult to imagine how it could have been decided otherwise. This was the bone of contention on the previous occasion, for the great men of the Council seem very indisposed to offer facilities for a scrutiny of the legal expenses incurred by the Council. Mr. Horsley now has a free hand, and we shall doubtless hear more of these matters.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

NORTH BRITISH BRANCH.

THE inaugural address of the winter session of the North British Branch was delivered at the Society's house in Edinburgh on Wednesday evening by Dr. Ralph Stockman, Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics, Glasgow University. Mr. J. L. Ewing presided over a large attendance.

ARROW POISONS.

The lecturer at the outset of his lecture remarked on the manner in which the gun and gunpowder had taken the place of the bow as an instrument of warfare. He alluded to the antiquity of the arrow, of what it was made, and to the manner in which poisons were used in connection with it for the purpose of making the wounds inflicted by it more deadly by the ancients and in the Middle Ages. It was, he said, very difficult at the present time to determine exactly what poisons were employed in Europe, as the meaning of the names had become entirely lost. The different species of poisonous hellebore—*H. niger*, *Veratrum album*, *V. viride*—were certainly used, as was also aconite, and probably belladonna, besides the venom of the viper and other snakes. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries it became widely known in Europe that the aborigines of South America and Western Africa were in the habit of employing poisoned arrows in warfare and in hunting, and now for a long time past these poisons have been objects of great interest to explorers and pharmacologists. A very large number of the different poisons had now been more or less carefully examined physiologically and botanically, and the plants had in some instances been grown in Europe. The exact methods of preparation in use among the savages had also been furnished. Such information was very difficult to obtain, as the secret was always most jealously guarded, and in some tribes was only known to certain families or chiefs, who passed it on to their successors. Some of the poisons were still quite unknown to us, but in their mode of preparation and ingredients commonly used there was a certain family resemblance all over the world. Snake-poison, poisonous insects, poisonous fish and other animals were commonly employed, while plant-juices or watery decoctions inspissated to the consistency of thick tar by heat formed the basis or the sole ingredient of the majority. The poisons used by different tribes differed much in deadliness, and even the same poison was not always equally effective. The active principle might tend to decompose, but if the poison was fresh and moist, it was rapidly absorbed from the wound, and was specially fatal. Some of them retain their virulence unimpaired for a very long time, as Lewin found a bushman poison-arrow still active which had lain for ninety years in the Museum of Anthropology at Berlin. One of the most interesting arrow-poisons was the arrow-poison of the Kalahari bushmen of South-West Africa. They used the entrails of a caterpillar, which, Dr. Livingstone said, when drawn over a sore,

CAUSED EXCRUCIATING AGONY,

and men wounded with the arrows died slowly in the most violent delirium. The insect was a small beetle, the *Dramphidia locusta*, which deposited the eggs on the leaves of a large tree on which the caterpillars fed, and then in due time they dropped on to the earth and formed their cocoons. Boehm had recently investigated the chemistry and action of the poison, and found that it was an albuminous substance very soluble in water, the solutions becoming rapidly decomposed and under the action of

putrefactive organisms losing their poisonous properties. As regards an antidote, Baines said the natives used a root, which was chewed and then rubbed on the wound and fat applied; but Livingstone made a much more interesting statement—namely, that the grub taken by the mouth was considered the best cure. According to Steedman and Burchell, other bushman tribes used vegetable poisons from the *Amargyllis disticha*, various species of *Euphorbium* and *Acokanthera*, alone, or mixed with snake, spider, or beetle poisons. The Choco Indians in Columbia, South America, used a peculiar poison derived from a tree-frog, the *Phyllobates chocoensis*, which they hold on a stick near a fire, when the heat caused the glands of the skin to secrete the poisonous fluid. It was innocuous when given by the mouth, but its exact action remained rather doubtful. Of the vegetable substances used for poisoning arrows, those which paralysed the heart, after the manner of large doses of digitalis, occupied a foremost place as regards deadliness and widespread use. The physiological action of all these substances had been carefully and successfully studied, but no antidote had yet been found, and so if one absorbed a sufficient amount of the poison, death was certain to occur within a short time. The most deadly were the arrow-poisons derived from the root-wood of different species of *Acokanthera* trees about 15 feet high—*A. Schimperii*, *A. Delgieri*, and *A. Quabii*. The poison of the Somalis prepared from them was a thick, tar-like, watery extract, the active constituent in which was a glucoside known as ouabain. After referring to graphic accounts given by Mr. Crawford Angus and Mr. Stanley of the effects of these poisons, the lecturer said the arrow-poison of the pigmies was a mixture of a cardiac-poison and strychnine-poison, and some others. It was very deadly, and one arrow would

KILL AN ELEPHANT.

Another set of arrow-poisons, which had a similar action on the heart, were those made from the juice of the famous Upas tree—the *Upas Antear*, growing in Borneo, Java, and adjacent parts. It was extremely poisonous, and experiments which the lecturer made with it showed that $\frac{1}{5400}$ gr. was sufficient to kill an ordinary-sized frog, in comparison with $\frac{1}{4500}$ gr. strophanthin and $\frac{1}{2500}$ gr. urechitis. They came lastly to the different species of strychnos, which were so largely used in South America, in the East Indian Archipelago, and to a much more limited extent in Africa for preparing these poisons. The most famous of these was the *Curara*, first brought to Europe in 1595 by Sir Walter Raleigh. It was not poisonous when swallowed, owing, it was said, to the slow rate at which it was absorbed. After mentioning the preparation of aconite and tobacco used by the Ainos in Japan, and damp earth containing tetanus bacillus by the natives of the New Hebrides, Professor Stockman concluded by saying that in spite of the large number of arrow-poisons which were known to them, the toxin sections were not very numerous, and could be roughly classed under five headings—(1) those acting on the heart and muscles, like digitalis; (2) those which acted on the nerve-endings, like curare; (3) those which acted on the nervous system and heart, like aconite; (4) those which acted on the spinal cord, like strychnine; and (5) those which had an action something like snake-poison.

The lecture was illustrated by a collection of arrows. Other specimens exhibited included living plants of the upas-tree (*Antiaris toxicaria*), used by the natives of Borneo; the Ombrio and Wariki arrow-poison plants of Central Africa (*Acokanthera Schimperii* and *Strophanthus Kombe*), the South American curare-plant (*Strychnos toxicaria*), the Madagascar ordeal-poison plant (*Cerbera tanghinia*), the Central African mauve ordeal plant (*Erythrophloeum guineense*), and a tropical American poisonous plant (*Thevetia nerifolia*), sent by Professor J. Bayley Balfour, Regius Keeper of Edinburgh Botanic Gardens. There was also exhibited a poisoned arrow brought by the late Surgeon Parke from the Pigmy tribes encountered in Stanley's Emin Pasha expedition, and poisoned darts and mauve ordeal poison from Central Africa, lent by Dr. George Smith, C.I.E. Professor JOHN GIBSON, Edinburgh, moved a vote of thanks to Professor Stockman for his lecture, which was seconded by Mr. PETER BOA, supported by Dr. SELLARS (Assistant-Professor of Materia Medica, Edinburgh), and cordially given.

Literary Notes.

PEARS' ANNUAL, 1898, seems to be more lavishly produced than ever before. It contains a long and original novel by R. E. Francillon, entitled "Who Fears to Speak of Ninety-eight?" We have only so far followed this from the black and white illustrations by Frank Dadd, R.I., but they are very tempting. The coloured reproductions are very finely done. There are three of them: "The Captain of the Eleven," by P. H. Calderon, R.A.; "Naughty Polly," by Albert W. Holden; and "The Sunny South," by W. S. Coleman. All the work, printing and lithography, we are informed, has been done in England. Some strikingly artistic advertisements appear in the issue.

THE "Year-book of Pharmacy and Transactions of the British Pharmaceutical Conference for 1898" comes to us this year with the Christmas numbers. The book is in the familiar green covers, and is arranged as to contents on the lines of former years. There are 536 pages of literary matter, half of these being taken up by the notes on chemistry, materia medica, and pharmacy and formulas. The second half of the book is occupied with the report of the Conference meeting held at Belfast last August, and other matters related to the Conference. The introduction to the book gives a *resumé* of the more important discoveries and communications of interest to the world of pharmacy, the foremost place being accorded to Professor Dewar's liquefaction of hydrogen. The new Pharmacopœia published last April seems to be disregarded, except so far as reporting the discussions which took place, to a limited extent, on that subject at the Conference meeting. We find the abstracts in the book to be accurate in their information, and place the volume on our shelves to lengthen the green-and-gold line they form, with the consciousness that when we are getting desperate in searching for some unusual information we may turn to it again, and find what we are looking for.

Prescription Reading: a Text-book for Pharmaceutical Students, comprising a Collection of Physicians' and Surgeons' Prescriptions for Mixtures, Lotions, Pills, Ointments, Powders, &c., to which are added a Latin Dictionary and Vocabulary, Tables of Abbreviations used in Prescriptions, and Doses of Official and Unofficial Medicines, and a Commentary upon British Poison-laws. By WILLIAM WATSON WILL. London: Metropolitan College of Pharmacy. 4to (unpaged). 12s. 6d.

THIS sumptuous volume, bound in scarlet cloth, gilt-lettered, is something novel in pharmaceutical literature, and we question if any but a successful teacher in pharmacy could have ventured to give it to the world. During his thirty years' experience in the trade Mr. Watson Will has collected autograph prescriptions, and reproductions of these in script-type form the bulk of the book. The average book-maker would have given some of, if not all, the prescriptions in facsimile, and Mr. Watson Will's volume would have been enhanced in value had he given the more illegible, at least, in this form rather than in script type. We cannot avoid this Oliver-Twistian turn to our comments, because "Prescription Reading" contains the completest set of modern prescriptions that we know of; they are well-arranged and instructive, and are followed by exceptionally complete Latin references. In short, the book contains all that the Minor student requires for the examination in prescription-reading. The posological tables are also good, and there are particulars regarding the sale of poisons. In regard to the latter, Mr. Watson Will overlooks the fact that all registered medical practitioners are exempt from the provisions regarding the sale of poisons, so far as registration under the Pharmacy Acts is concerned. He says "all legally qualified apothecaries," but that exemption was extended by the Amendment Act of 1869 to all registered medical practitioners. He should also make it clear that the exemption extends to the first fifteen sections of the 1868 Act, and to the medicines supplied to patients. In addition to the script-type prescriptions the book contains 1,603 old Latin prescriptions, which afford excellent practice to the student. As it is a class-book, there is not much comment in it. We think its value would be enhanced if

Mr. Watson Will would preface each set of prescriptions with remarks upon them. These would facilitate private study. As it is, the volume fills a gap in pharmaceutical literature, and deserves success.

Trade Notes.

MESSRS. JEWSBURY & BROWN, mineral-water manufacturers, of Manchester, have just been honoured with the Lord Steward's warrant of appointment as purveyors of mineral waters to the Queen.

THE LONDON PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPLY COMPANY and the Blackfriars Photographic and Sensitising Company have amalgamated under the style of the London and Blackfriars Photographic Supply Company. The offices and showrooms will be at 134 Borough, S.E., and the factories at 1 Surrey Row, Blackfriars, and 60 Gravel Lane, Southwark.

THE *Morning Advertiser*, which is an authority on drinks, remarks on the striking change noticeable at Society dinners with regard to beverages. Champagne and hocks are now freely diluted by many persons with Apollinaris, and Apollinaris and whisky or Apollinaris alone is a very usual drink. One of the first things the intelligent and careful guest looks for now when he sits down to dinner is a bottle of Apollinaris. He knows it will correct anything in the wine that needs correction, and it will protect him from dyspeptic troubles.

DEVELOPING-POWDER.—The newest thing in developers is Baron Hubl's Developing-powder, for which Messrs. Isenthal, Potzler & Co., 85 Mortimer Street, W., are the sole agents for the United Kingdom. A metal capsule on each bottle serves as a measure of the quantity to use. The powder is merely dissolved in water in varying quantities according to the exposure the plate has received. The solution, when made, does not become discoloured for several hours, and produces nice clear negatives. It is a very good form of developer, suitable alike for use at home and when travelling.

TONING-BATH.—Mr. J. E. Lockyer, photographic chemist, 87 Evelyn Street, Deptford, S.E., has added to his series of put-up photographic solutions, a concentrated toning-bath. It is put up in small vials, each vial in a carton and each dozen cartons in a box. The contents of the bottles added to 10 oz. of water make a toning bath, sufficient to tone about a dozen $\frac{1}{4}$ -plate prints. This method of selling toning-baths obviates the trouble of weighing small quantities of the deliquescent salts, sulphocyanide of ammonia and chloride of gold, and will be a convenience which most amateurs will readily appreciate. The retail price of the concentrated toning-baths is 4s. a dozen, or 4½d. each.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.—Messrs. F. Darton & Co., Clerkenwell Optical-works, 142 St. John Street, E.C., are issuing a special list of novelties for the winter season. There are some elegant lines in opera-glasses and barometers which are always acceptable as Christmas presents. In the electrical department there are many compact motors and dynamos which are calculated to make the average boy's heart rejoice, in these days when his appetite for scientific toys has been whetted by technical education. For younger children we notice model steam-engines and hot-air models which can be used for a variety of purposes and with sufficient immunity from risk of accident to satisfy the most fastidious parent. Chemists who do this kind of business will find the goods on this list capital "sellers" at this time of the year.

DRUGS AND MEDICINES valued at 1,666½. were imported into Mosul Turkey during 1897, as against 2,000½. in 1896.

MR. W. BRIGGS, chemist, Cheapside, Lancaster, who on the re-organisation of the Lancaster Fire Brigade several years ago was appointed second in command, has made himself so popular with the brigade members that they have presented him with a helmet, axe, and belt, such as are usually worn by officers of brigades. The presentation was made in the Borough Court-room on November 12 by the Mayor, who spoke of the Corporation's high appreciation of Mr. Briggs's disinterested services, and mentioned that, like a true Volunteer, Mr. Briggs would not even allow the Corporation to find him his uniform.

Correspondence.

In writing letters for publication correspondents should adopt a concise, but not abbreviated, style. They are requested to write on one side of the paper only. Letters, with or without a nom-de-plume, must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

Notice to Correspondents.

Queries should be written on separate pieces of paper, and the regulations printed under the sections to which they apply should be strictly observed.

Conyngham v. the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

SIR,—As the obvious deduction to be made from a reading of your Editorial on the above cannot apply by reason of the high reputation of your journal for impartiality, I am obliged to conclude that, in the short time at your disposal, you were unable to fully peruse the judgments in question. I am inclined all the more to this opinion on account of the paragraph which appears in your summary of contents, in which you state the Court held "that a limited company is a firm for the purposes of this regulation."

Your position is so curious that justice can only be done to it by placing the crucial point of the judgment, in the words of the Judge, and your version of it in parallel columns, as follows:—

He (the Lord Chief Baron) entertained no doubt in the world that *this incorporated company* was a firm within the meaning of the regulation. It was an incorporated company of legally qualified pharmaceutical chemists. No person other than such a chemist could, according to the present constitution of the company, be a member of it. True, its Articles of Association might be altered, and *when they should be so altered that a person, not a pharmaceutical chemist, could be a member of the company, another question would arise*, and he would loyally follow the previous decision of the Court.—From the Lord Chief Baron's Judgment in the Conyngham case, *C. & D.*, November 19, 1898.

Mr. W. B. Conyngham has applied to the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court, Dublin, for a *mandamus* to compel the Pharmaceutical Council to admit him to the Licence examination, which they had declined because he had served part of his time with a limited company. He got a *mandamus*, the Court holding that a limited company is a firm for the purposes of this regulation.—*EDITOR, C. & D.*, page 809, November 19, 1898.

Your contention that this case was identical with that of *Cleeland v. The Pharmaceutical Society* cannot be sustained for a moment, as the affidavits made by the Pharmaceutical Society in that case complained that only two of the shareholders in the firm then in question were pharmaceutical chemists, and that affidavit fully explains Judge O'Brien's remarks, which you have endeavoured to hold up to ridicule, when he said, in *Cleeland's* case, that "the words meant individual pharmaceutical chemists. A firm of pharmaceutical chemists could not be taken to mean a body including pharmaceutical chemists or a company." I know the futility of entering upon a contest with an editor unless you happen to have him in the cleft stick of the libel law, and I do not purpose further taking up your valuable space. I will merely add that if the administration of the law in this case is so bad, so obscure, so idiotic as you describe it in your trenchant and violent editorial, there is a Court of Appeal in Ireland as in England, and if, when your friends try it, and, peradventure, find the same crass stupidity illuminating that tribunal, there is still another tribunal which you wot of—the House of Lords—where although a couple of Irishmen have honoured seats, yet the surrounding and atmospheric influences of London might prevent them from giving or upholding a decision of so much indecency as you complain of, and one so much out of accord with the views and feelings of Irish pharmaceutical chemists as represented by their trade-organ.

Yours faithfully,

T. W. ROBINSON.

P.S.—You will be interested to hear that the Lord Chief Baron anticipated your quotation from Lord Justice Bram-

well in the English case, and, using it, asked counsel *if any firm* as such could possess competent practical knowledge, or could compound prescriptions, or teach apprentices, and counsel replied "No; except by its individual members"—a reply which seemed to satisfy both sides.

112 Upper Georges Street, Kingstown.

[We cannot expect Mr. Robinson to agree with our view, and as he is on the winning side he can well afford to treat a mere lay opinion with good humour. The only object of this note is to make clear the issue between us. The Irish High Court holds that "Hayes, Conyngham & Robinson (Limited)" are a firm for the purposes of the regulation made under the Pharmacy Act. In a previous case they held that "Grattan & Co. (Limited)" were not a firm for the same purposes. They draw the distinction on the ground that in the former case all the shareholders are qualified; in the latter they were not. We do not regard the distinction as "bad, obscure, and idiotic." On the contrary, we see a great deal of reason for it. All that we argue is that it is a direct contravention of the judgment of the House of Lords in the case of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain v. The London and Provincial Supply Association (Limited), which ruled that a duly registered company, however constituted, was so far different from a person or a firm that it was not subject to penalties which could be imposed on the latter under the Act. Exactly the same argument should, we humbly think, deprive it of privileges under the Act. Of the two we prefer the Irish Court's view; but, unfortunately, it is that of the House of Lords which prevails.]

The Dewsbury Discussion.

SIR,—I note from Mr. Beecham's latest manifesto in your correspondence columns that he still adheres to his opinion that his report of the meeting of October 20, as sent to the trade papers and circulated by his own printers to the whole of the trade, was a fair and impartial record of the proceedings. In reply to this I need only point out that the first resolution, which was passed unanimously, at the meeting on November 7 condemned the report as biased and unfair, and leave your readers to draw their own conclusions. The second resolution at the same meeting, was drawn up and moved by myself, but as Mr. Beecham so persistently endeavours to father on the P.A.T.A., I wish to state emphatically that Mr. Glyn-Jones had no more to do with framing it than had Mr. Beecham himself. As a matter of fact, I had the resolution already written out and in my pocket at the first meeting, and it was quite unknown to me, when it was written out, that our Association had received any communication whatever from the P.A.T.A. Want of time for its discussion was the sole reason for its non-appearance until the following meeting. This brings me to the point that I personally did not expect Mr. Beecham to be influenced by it, but I considered it essential for our Association to define its views and position on the whole question of fixing of prices. It appears to me that only "the cutters" can influence Mr. Beecham. He is anxious that they shall not cut each other's throats (commercially), or there would be no interest left even in selling his pills as a "decoy," and this would ultimately injure the sale, so a limit must be fixed even to "cutters." Mr. Beecham told us some time ago that it is the "cutter" who fixes the selling-price in every district, and it is evident the same individual is to fix the mutual agreement price; so we have the humiliating spectacle of one of the most powerful owners of proprietary articles confessing himself powerless to control the selling-price of his own preparations. It is unfortunate in some respects that this discussion should have assumed too much the appearance of a duel between Mr. Beecham and Mr. Glyn-Jones, to the partial obscuration of the main argument—namely, better remuneration for the retailer by any effective method; but in my opinion Mr. Rowed's determined and vindictive attack on the P.A.T.A. is primarily responsible for this development. It would be interesting to learn if all or how many of the chemists in the districts where the mutual agreement is in force have signed the document. In any case I shall be much surprised if many of the level-headed business men (chemists) in our Yorkshire districts assent to Mr. Beecham's ideas of a remunerative profit by doing so. I can assure Mr. Beecham that I personally will not further

seek to interfere with the management of his business, taking care at the same that the sale of his preparations shall not unduly interfere with the conduct of my own.

Yours faithfully,

Heckmondwike, November 19.

WALTER STEAD.

SIR,—There is an anonymous letter in your last week's issue signed "Fair Play," and treating of some opinions of mine regarding the Dewsbury paper by Mr. Thos. Beecham's manager *re* "Fixing of Prices."

If "Fair Play" will favour with his name and address, I shall try and afford him some information, and point out at least one error he makes, otherwise I will not be drawn.

Yours truly,

Fraserburgh, November 21.

J. A. ROBERTSON.

Mr. Glyn-Jones sends us a lengthy letter in further reference to Mr. Beecham's position. He quotes in full the two resolutions passed by the Dewsbury Chemists' Association (1) condemning as an unfair and biased account of the proceedings the report of the first meeting issued by Mr. Beecham, and (2) declaring that no arrangement, whether mutual or otherwise, which does not provide for a profit of at least 20 per cent. on each transaction, will be considered either adequate or satisfactory remuneration. Referring to (1) Mr. Glyn-Jones remarks:—"Mr. Beecham's only answer to these strictures is that the passing of the resolution does not alter the fact that the report was a correct one. Nothing can alter a fact. The purport of the resolution was that Mr. Beecham's report stated what was not fact. There were eleven chemists present at the meeting to which this report referred. Eight of those gentlemen were present at the second meeting, and to a man declared that Mr. Beecham's report 'was an unfair and biased account.' This was not only an expression of opinion, but two specific and important statements contained in Mr. Beecham's report were flatly contradicted. Does Mr. Rowed ask the trade to accept his statement as against the unanimous statement of eight members of the Dewsbury Chemists' Association?" Mr. Glyn-Jones also presses the point that Mr. Beecham sent the report to the trade-papers before Mr. Gledhill, the Dewsbury Secretary, had been asked to verify it. Then he deals with (2) thus:—"Mr. Rowed brushes the second resolution aside with as much discourtesy as I imagine it would be possible to deal with a meeting of gentlemen, whose guest he had been. He says: 'I must estimate it at its true value. No level-headed business-man would expect me, or any proprietor of an old-established article, to be influenced thereby.' The reason given for this is that there were only twenty-four gentlemen present out of a district in which there were hundreds of retailers of his pills. At the first meeting, reported by Mr. Beecham, there were less than half that number present. It is not so long ago since Mr. Rowed placed the highest estimate upon the opinions of the members of the Dewsbury Chemists' Association. Indeed, so highly did he value them that he thought it would be to Mr. Beecham's interest to circulate to every chemist in business, and to all proprietors, a report purporting to give the views held by the Dewsbury chemists on this question. He, indeed, paid them the further compliment of making it appear from his report that they were in agreement with the views propounded to the meeting by himself and Mr. Glover. If Mr. Rowed had been allowed to misrepresent those views with impunity he would doubtless still have placed the highest estimate upon them; but now that those very gentlemen repudiate Mr. Rowed's report, say that they did not agree with Mr. Beecham's representatives, and pass a resolution distinctly antagonistic to Mr. Rowed's views, that gentleman turns round and explains that no man will expect him to be influenced by what these gentlemen say."

"I think the trade are entitled to an explanation of the following sentence which occurs in Mr. Beecham's letters: 'The opinion that I have long held that the good-will and support of a certain section of the trade is an unknown quantity.' Judging from the context, it would appear that by a 'certain section' Mr. Beecham means the rank and file of chemists and druggists. If this is not so, perhaps Mr. Beecham will explain to whom the phrase refers."

"Some of your correspondents appear to think that the P.A.T.A. are quarrelling with Mr. Beecham because he does

not accept their particular method of guaranteeing a profit. The P.A.T.A. would welcome a profit of 2d. in the shilling to the smallest retailer upon Beecham's pills, whatever method he may adopt in assuring that profit."

"I am, yours, &c.,

W. S. GLYN-JONES."

Liquid Star-anise Oil.

SIR,—Owing to the interest that is growing in the question newly set up of the liquid oil of star-anise, I made some new investigations on the subject, and I now beg to address you thereon.

The natives of the Pé-Sé district obtain an oil by distilling the leaves and even the branches of star-anise trees. This new way of getting the oil was only brought out a few years ago, and is now spreading quite rapidly. During those years that the trees bear only a few fruits (1897, for instance, the year most interesting for us) the Chinese pull all the leaves down, only sparing the buds. The old trees which give no more fruits are cut down, and the bark and the tips of the branches are cut and thrown into the alembic. One hundred catties of leaves, branches, &c., give by distillation 12 taels of oil—*i.e.*, $\frac{2}{5}$ per cent. The oil thus obtained is sold very easily, and at the same price as the oil of the fruit. It has, indeed, all the characters of a pure oil, but the melting-point is very low and the crystals are not so shining as those coming from the fruit-oil. Perhaps the oil we have in view is of this sort. In that case it should be interesting to know whether a seller has the right to sell this oil as an oil of star-anise or not.

Yours faithfully,

Paris, November 21.

J. L. SIMON.

B.P. Glycerin Suppositories.

SIR,—Given a certain latitude in construing the B.P. directions, it is not difficult to make 70-per-cent. glycerin suppositories on the lines there laid down. The first question that arises is—Can ordinary commercial gelatin of good quality be sufficiently hydrated in two minutes to make it as freely soluble as the subsequent conditions require? I believe it cannot. As a matter of fact, it absorbs much less than the limit of hydration in the finished product, which, when calculated, is seen to be 114 parts water to 100 parts gelatin. Consequently, water must be added at some other stage of the process to make the suppositories of the proper strength. If, on the other hand, this same gelatin is freely treated with water by immersing it for ten or fifteen minutes, as in making the usual hectograph, it does not take up much more than 150 parts of water to 100 parts gelatin. This looks extremely like the intention of the B.P. in the matter of hydration; the mass is quite soluble in the glycerin, and there remains 36 parts of water, equal to $\frac{1}{20}$ part of the whole by weight, to be dissipated by heat. I suspect that a good many glycerin suppositories have been manufactured after this fashion, and, as a matter of fact, it represents the attitude of the dispenser to a good many official formulæ in times past. The altered formula would thus read:—

Place the gelatin in a weighed evaporating-dish with sufficient distilled water to cover it; let it stand for ten minutes, or until after pouring off the excess of distilled water the product weighs 1½ oz.; cover and set aside till the gelatin is quite soft; add the glycerin; dissolve at once on a water-bath; evaporate until the mixture weighs 1,563 gr., &c.

Working in this way I have no difficulty; in the B.P. I have what you mentioned in your September editorial; *ergo*, the B.P. people should take note of the need for correction.

Yours faithfully,

C. (103/64.)

P.S.—A sheet gelatin, weighing 1 gr. per square inch, seems to be contemplated by the B.P. directions; but as there is no specification to this effect anywhere in the volume, it becomes necessary to indicate a degree of saturation which will successfully resist the actively hygroscopic properties of the glycerin, and I am inclined to think that more depends upon this than on any change in the mode of working. Perhaps the "ten minutes" in the altered formula should be made to read "a few." I enclose a sample of very thin gelatin, 100 gr. of which take up 124 gr. of water in two minutes.

On Cutting.

SIR,—Is it possible we shall ever get chemists to see matters in their proper light, and accept facts as they are? No one knows better than they do that they themselves are often the cutters of not only patents, but of everything else they sell. They "kid" themselves they are quite free from this failing of the drug-stores; but what are the facts? Take A, B, and C—three men in business in the town of D. A is perpetually trying to cut under B in every way, and C tries his utmost to undersell both. All have the mistaken notion of increasing their trade and the consumption of articles so cut. Depend on it the public will not buy a single pill more than they really want, be the price what it may. Instead of A, B, and C cutting one another's throats and giving the benefit to the public, their plan is to have an agreement with one another and fix prices all round. Surely it can be done if properly taken in hand. The public think less than chemists imagine of the price; whether it is $9\frac{1}{2}\%$, or $10\frac{1}{2}\%$, does not much matter.

What chemists should strive after is quality; make their shops models of cleanliness, order, and tidiness; make them attractive and dainty, not with coloured ribbons, feathers, stuffed or live animals, but attractive to the senses of people who are oftentimes delicate, and consequently very fastidious and hard to please.

Keep the shop scrupulously clean, comfortable, and bright. Do not keep the door always hermetically sealed, as is so often the case. Leave it open, inviting people to enter. Have everything on counter clean, carefully dusted, and attractively put up, displaying sundries and your own preparations according to the season. Let everything be first-class in quality and appearance, and let your shop be symbolic of the very highest art of pharmacy. Do not degrade your calling. All this can be done without spending money; it only wants constant personal attention.

If patents do not pay, try something else; adapt yourselves to the spirit of the age. Try to be smart in business and manner; be cheerful if possible, and attentive, however hard some may find it so to be. The drug-trade as a whole was never better: you each may share in this prosperity if you will. Trade will not come to you: you must go to seek it. We are all tradesmen, and keep a business not for glory alone, but to get bread-and-butter if we can. Therefore conduct yourselves like ordinary tradesmen, and do not be above your business as such.

Truly yours,

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS A DRUG-TRAVELLER. (105/33.)

The Pharmaceutical Council and Company-pharmacy

We have several letters on this subject, suggested by the speech of the President of the Pharmaceutical Society at the dinner of the Western Chemists' Association of London, reported last week.

A. P. S. (106/33) says he will contribute 2*l.* 2*s.* to a special fund for the costs of introducing a Bill for this purpose if the Council will undertake the enterprise. He adds, "We have been sitting down for the last eighteen years saying that Parliament won't do this, and won't do that! Let us now fight for all we are worth; let a short Bill be drafted dealing with the flaw in the Pharmacy Act; let this Bill be introduced into Parliament, and let us peg away at it until passed, even if it takes years to do. We have right and the highest legal authorities in the land on our side, and it can be done."

"Truth" (105/66) asks: Was it necessary to tell an intelligent body of men that a Bill making company pharmacy illegal would meet with opposition in Parliament? What Bill does not? Why should the Pharmaceutical Society wait for an opportunity? To-day is the time. There have been twenty years of "retrospective" opportunity which Parliament would desire an account of.

As for 90 per cent. of the trade being with them, Mr. Hills must know that there are not 2 per cent. off the trade against such an effort being made. There may be 90 per cent. against the Pharmaceutical Society, and the reason why one has not to go far to seek—simply because they have betrayed their trust, and are not worthy the confidence of business-men. The Society may try from now to doomsday to induce men to join the Society upon pie-crust promises and fail; but ask the trade to subscribe a guinea each to an

independent fund, having for its object the overthrow of company pharmacy, and judge by the results whether the trade is in sympathy with the object or not.

The trade has moral right on its side, and this must be so emphasised that no Legislature of professedly moral men will ever dare to carry their opposition so far as to continue to pauperise a body of men which they themselves have created.

Let Mr. Hills be commissioned, through such a fund, to approach every M.P., and if he is correct the glorious day of emancipation will soon dawn. Otherwise, sir, I believe if you would marshal a campaign on similar lines to that of a few months ago, and every member of the trade were furnished with data and material by you, which he himself would transcribe and lay before his local member, and the fusillade be continuously kept up, I have no doubt the same end would be accomplished.

Assistants in the Transvaal.

A. Ph.S. Eng. (102/49) writes from Johannesburg to warn assistants at home that they should not go out to the Transvaal at too low salaries. He says the minimum wage out in the Transvaal should be 20*l.* per month, as that will just keep a man respectable, and allow him to save a little. "A. Ph.S. Eng." went out on that salary on a two years' agreement, and his passage was paid out. Boys of practically no experience can earn 10*l.* per month there. Hours are long and work hard, and a man should get 25*l.* to 30*l.* per month for his services as a qualified assistant. Living-expenses out there are very high, and a man earning 16*l.* per month would just live, and that is all. The chemists' assistant in the Transvaal is the worst paid of any trade or profession. Barmen get from 16*l.* to 25*l.* a month, carpenters from 1*l.* per day, whilst miners and other mine-employees get a salary from 20*l.* per month to as much as 100*l.* per month, and the hours of labour are less.

Dispensing Notes.

This section is intended for the elucidation of dispensing difficulties. Subscribers and their employes may contribute to it, criticising any of the following notes or contributing notes on prescriptions which they have found to be of unusual interest.

Bright or Muddy Mixture.

SIR,—I have two shops. At one the following mixture is turned out bright and clear; at the other a muddy mixture, with nearly an inch of deposit. Which is right, and why should they differ?—

Ferri ammon. citr. ...	...	...	5j.
Potass. chlor... ..	...	...	3i.
Mag. sulph. ... ..	...	...	3ss.
Syr. aurant. ... ..	...	...	3iiss.
Aq. menth. pip. ad ...	...	...	3viij.

M.

Yours faithfully,
NEMO. (92/83.)

[The mixture should be clear. Some of the drugs used at the one shop are at fault.]

Serpentary-and-Iodine Mixture.

SIR,—I had the following to dispense a few days ago:—

Tr. iodi ... ..	...	...	℥xxv.
Inf. serpent. ad ...	...	...	3j.

Mitte 3viij. 3ss. pro dosis.

I prepared a fresh infusion, and, whilst just warm, added the tr. iodi. The result was an inky mixture in appearance.

My customer brought it back, and said she did not like to take it, as she was afraid it was wrong, but on my explanation she did.

To-day she went to another chemist, and he dispensed it lighter and clearer than anyone else; so she asked me if I could explain it. I therefore prepared a mixture from the concentrated inf., and it was as dark as inf. gent. co. conc.; but the one brought in was like sherry in colour; so I made an inf. fresh and mixed two bottles from it, one whilst hot

and the other when cold, and both of these are inky in appearance.

Can you tell me which is the correct mixture, or where I was in error?

Yours truly,

C. T. B. (97/93)

[Serpentary rhizome contains a small amount of starch, and this gives the colouration with iodine. The B.P. infusion-process does not always extract starch. Will you try it again, being very exact as to the comminution of the rhizome and time of the infusion, and let us know the result?]

Legal Queries.

We do not give legal opinions by post. Information regarding most legal matters in connection with pharmacy will be found in THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, and in "Pharmacy and Poison Laws of the United Kingdom," and Alpe's "Handy-book of Medicine-stamp Duty."

93/47. *Bayolia*.—Neither salts of lemon nor phosphor paste is a scheduled poison in Great Britain, but both are in Ireland. Fenning's fever-curer is classed as containing a scheduled poison in Newbery's catalogue, but his children's powders are not. Look to Buyers' Guide in DIARY for the other information you ask for.

97/71. *W. G. M.*—To carry out the provisions of the will, you must either agree with the other legatees as to the value of the business and pay to each his share, or the business must be sold to the highest bidder. It would probably be worth more to you than to anyone else, so that you could then probably buy it cheaply.

93/21. *A. P. B.* asks: "Can oil of juniper. ligni exot. be legally sold when oil of juniper is asked for?" Further: "Can oil of juniper. bacc. exot. be sold or must it be oil of juniper. bacc. ang.?" According to the Pharmacopœia (which would be taken as conclusive evidence in this case in any court), "oil of juniper" means oil from the berries, and the oil from the wood would not be the substance demanded. But we do not know of any obligation to supply the English oil.

97/2. *Antipyrrin*.—The First examination of the Pharmaceutical Society is not accepted either in part or in whole in lieu of any of the examinations authorised by the Medical Council, unless it happens that for the Pharmaceutical examination one of those accepted by the Medical Council (Matriculation, First-class Preceptors, &c.) was passed.

99/1. *Kent*.—Chlorodyne-lozenges may or may not contain a scheduled poison. If they do, no one but a registered chemist may legally sell them by retail. If they do not, it is possible, but not very likely, we think, that a conviction against the vendor might be obtained under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

93/18. *Insurance*.—The Workmen's Compensation Act does not apply to retail chemists as a rule. If they have works where steam or hydraulic power is used (anaerated-water factory, for example) it would apply to the staff there employed. Comments on the Act, with counsel's opinions on this point, were given in the *C. & D.*, May 28, 1898.

92/40. *C. K.*—An embrocation labelled as "for rheumatism, sprains, &c.," clearly requires a medicine-stamp. See decision on this point in *C. & D.*, March 26, 1898.

92/68. *E. M. L.*—An employer is not, as a rule, liable to pay for medical treatment of his assistants. But in your case it is a nice point whether the assistant could claim, either under the Employers' Liability Act, 1830, or the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897. Without knowing more of the surrounding circumstances, we cannot give a proper opinion. But, as you can solve the difficulty by a payment of 6*l.*, as you say, we think you would be wise to so settle it. The assistant is entitled to his salary during his illness and until his engagement is determined.

100/10. *D.*—Is a druggist bound to show his poison-register on demand to anyone, or to the police, without a warrant authorising the inspection? We cannot give a definite answer to this question, because it has never been decided in a court. We reported a case at Spalding (*C. & D.*, October 15, 1878) in which a firm of chemists were summoned for having sold strychnine without registering the sale. The case arose out of the death of a valuable dog. The solicitor who defended the chemist refused to produce the register. The Clerk advised that its production could be compelled by a Crown Office subpoena. The case was adjourned, and at the next hearing the Clerk reported that in accordance with the Act 14 and 15 Vict. c. 99 s. 14 (which directs that the person in charge of any public document may be required to furnish a copy thereof, on payment of a reasonable sum not exceeding 4*d.* per folio of ninety words), he had served the chemist with a notice calling for such copy, and had tendered 6*d.* for the same, but the offer had been declined. The solicitor argued that the register was not a public document, the chemist was not a public officer, and as the case was one punishable on summary conviction, he could not be compelled to furnish evidence that might incriminate himself. The case was argued at considerable length and the Magistrates ruled against the solicitor's contentions; but they did without the register, and ultimately dismissed the summons. Another case occurred at Arundel (*C. & D.*, April 11, 1891), but in this the Magistrates simply advised an applicant that if they found the production of the register necessary to a certain case they would order its production.

100/79. *Rat.*—For details of trade-mark registration, see THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY.

100/21. *Dentes*.—You will find details respecting the registration of trade-marks in the *C. & D.* DIARY. We do not think the word you suggest would be accepted.

100/25. *Jenus*.—If you paid carriage on a parcel which got destroyed on the journey, you can, of course, claim for the amount you paid to have it conveyed as well as for the value of the goods.

105/11. *Mineral*.—You are liable to a penalty under the Merchandise Marks Act if you put aerated waters into bottles bearing the names of other makers. You may also be liable to an action for damages if you injure their bottles by putting such things as paraffin oil into them. In any case it is safer not to supply liquids in such bottles at all.

105/29. *Imperieuse*.—If you give notice on November 24 your term is completed when work is finished on December 24.

104/7. *Delayed*.—If you can prove that a railway company forgot to deliver the parcel for six days, and you inquired twice daily for them, we should think you could recover such damages as you could prove from the company.

97/50. *Cetaceum* has a wine-licence for his principal shop, but not for a branch shop in another part of the town. Can he take an order for wine at the branch, provided he does not take the cash for it, and sends the wine and the bill for it from his licensed shop?

[No sale of wine can be made under a wine licence except on the premises for which the licence is held. But the question as to what constitutes a sale has given rise to a good deal of controversy in the law courts. In two recent appeal cases, however (*Pletts v. Cambell*, 1895, 2 Q.B. 229, and *Pletts v. Beattie*, 1896, 1 Q.B. 519), the judges have settled the principle on which such cases will in future be decided. Stated briefly, this is that the person ordering the liquor must transmit his order to the licensed premises, where the goods must be definitely marked or addressed to the purchaser. It appears to be legal for retailers to employ an agent or traveller to solicit orders, but in transmitting such orders to the licensed premises, the traveller must act technically as the agent of the purchaser. He may receive a written order, or even a distinct verbal request from a customer, and transmit it through the post or otherwise to his employer. But he cannot deliver goods which have not been so ordered and appropriated to the customer on the licensed premises.]

Applying this principle to the case in question, it is evident that it depends very much on the form in which the order is received as to whether it can be legally carried out. If the customer gives a written order at the unlicensed branch shop, addressed to the licensed premises, it can be sent on, or even such a verbal message as:—"Would you send up to St. George's Road and tell them to send me over a bottle of wine." But if the customer simply says—"Send me a dozen of wine," it would no doubt be held that the sale took place at the unlicensed shop, no matter from where the wine was ultimately sent. The manner of payment is immaterial, except as affording an indication of the nature of the transaction. It may be observed that the Excise and the Police scrutinise these indirect sales with a jealous eye, and in our opinion it is exceedingly risky to execute orders for wine received at an unlicensed shop unless they are in writing. A conviction for an unlicensed sale might lead to the forfeiture of the licence held, and this would almost certainly be a bar to the owner ever receiving another wine licence, as such forfeiture is one of the four grounds on which these licences can be refused.]

100/44. *Minerals* says A. (a mineral-water company) sell syphons to B. (a shareholder in the company), the syphons bearing A.'s trade-mark etched on them. B. sells the syphons to C. In each case the syphons are charged for when sent out, and credited when returned. There is no other agreement indicating ownership. The syphons were stolen from C. Who is the owner of the syphons, and on whom must the loss fall?

[We are inclined to think that under the circumstances C. is the person liable for the loss. What happens is really this: The mineral-water company (A.) sell the syphons to B., agreeing to buy them back again if returned in good condition and A. could sue B. for goods sold and delivered. B. sells the syphons to C., and could sue C. in a similar manner. If this is not so, and the syphons can be proved to be merely on loan, then, if C. has taken reasonable care of them, he is not liable if they are stolen. The test in all these cases is, has the property in the syphons really passed? If it has, the ownership and consequent loss from theft is transferred from the vendor to the purchaser. Probably A.'s invoices contain some reference to this point. We do not overlook that a strong point in favour of C. is the fact that the trade-mark of the original owners is on the syphons, making them practically useless to anyone else.]

Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We reply to subscribers and their employes only upon subjects of interest to other readers generally. When more than one

Notice to Querists. query is sent write each on a separate piece of paper. When a sample accompanies a query full particulars regarding the origin and use of the sample must be given, and it must be distinctly labelled. Queries are not replied to by post, and those sent anonymously are disregarded.

103/25 *Sigma*.—We cannot do what you want. You will notice the cautionary note in "Pharmaceutical Formulas," and you ask us to do what is contrary to the spirit of that notice, and a thing which is legally risky. Moreover, we think you are quite competent, with A., B., and C. before you, to select the formulæ yourself.

87/64. *Hull*.—Why not melt out the resinous sediment of the linseed-oil bottle by heat? You cannot hurt a tin bottle.

88/74. *Boots*.—Brown Boot-polish. — See *C. & D.*, November 27, 1897, page 855, or "Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 329.

86/44 *J. M.*—You refer to the drawback allowed on alcoholic preparations on exportation, and in the forthcoming CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY there is an article giving the method of procedure to be adopted in obtaining the drawback, which we recommend you to read carefully.

84/13. *J. P.*—Minor students are allowed to consult the B.P. for quantities when they are desired to make pharma-

ceutical preparations. An examiner would not be favourably impressed with a student who started making anything but the simplest preparation without referring to the B.P. Candidates are not expected to know the B.P. by rote.

84/53. *H. L.*—We know of no books on tinning shellfish.

84/40. *Cinchona*.—A formula for a cheap balsam of aniseed was given in this journal on page 642, October 16, 1897.

98 11. *Process*.—The following are some of the books published on Half-tone Work:—Wilkinson's "Photo-mechanical Processes" (5s.); Verfasser's "Half-tone Process" (Lund), 2s.; Cronenberg and Gamble's "Half-tone on the American Basis" (Lund), 2s.; Fritz and Wall's "Photolithography" (Dawbarn), 3s. 6d.

83 19. *J. A. R. B.*—W. T. Brannt's "Vinegar, Cider, and Fruit Wines," 25s. (Low), and Thudichum and Dupré's "Origin and Nature and Varieties of Wine," 25s. (Macmillan), are the best-known books on wines.

79/35. *T. T. M.*—Elma Stuart's 5s. book, "What Must I Do to Get Well?" gives particulars of the Salisbury Treatment. See also *C. & D.*, September 26, 1896, page 506.

113 10. *C. S. O. H.*—Your sample of Incense is made from the following recipe:—

Olibanum	...	...	...	...	5 oz.
Benzoin	...	...	...	...	2 oz.
Cascarilla	...	...	...	...	1 oz.

Break the gums in small pieces, and reduce the cascarilla to coarse powder, and mix.

98/16. *R. F.*—The inquiry you send us about the shaving-soap you made from a formula which appeared in the *C. & D.* five or six years ago is too vague. How are we to recognise the formula you are referring to? You give us no data.

92/63. *Nemo*.—Cassell's "French Dictionary" is good. Your bookseller could probably give you a choice of good dictionaries at various prices.

91/39. *Assistant* says he finds that Acetum Ipecacuanhæ made from the new B.P. develops acetate of ethyl in about a month's time, and he asks us if we think the Pharmacopœia Committee took this into consideration when they added spirit to this preparation. The spirit was added as a preservative; but of course we cannot say whether the committee foresaw that acetic ether would be formed.

92/37. *A. B. & S.*—A Cement made by dissolving isinglass in strong acetic acid is the best thing to use for sticking celluloid tops on corks.

93/24. *Acetone* sends us the following order he has received, and wants to know what he should supply for it:—

Will you please give bearer sixpence worth of extract of wormwood, oil of nutmeg, and oil of saffron in equal parts?

It seems to be a case in which only from information obtained from the customer could it be decided what was required. The extract of wormwood is doubtless oil of wormwood, and the oil of saffron a fixed oil coloured with saffron, real oil of saffron not being an article of commerce.

Information Wanted.

The Editor will be obliged for replies to the following from any who can furnish the information.

100/3. London agents for "talcum-powder."

99/9. Where can match-making machinery be obtained?

97/31. What is "Budlass," a preparation said to prevent rabbits "barking trees"?

99/13. What is "Litholine," a turpentine-substitute used by printers, and where can it be obtained?

96/69. What is the composition of "Margaret's mixture," a soothing-medicine for babies sold in Welsh chemists' shops? Also what is "Swyn Serch"?

Trade Report.

Notice to Retail Buyers.

It should be remembered that the quotations in this section are invariably the lowest net cash prices actually paid for large quantities in bulk, and, for crude drugs, without charges. For fuller particulars see the article "Lowest Trade Terms" in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, March 19, 1898, p. 473. C.i.f. quotations are for London unless when otherwise stated.

Buyers of essential oils are particularly requested to note that low quotations, especially for Sicilian essences, are rarely, if ever, accompanied by guarantee of genuineness.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.: November 24.

THE markets are quiet this week, quinine being lifeless, and manufacturers steadily refuse to supply speculative buyers. The official quotations are unchanged. Camphor has again advanced, and at the moment of writing a further rise is contemplated, as crude camphor is almost unobtainable at the rates which refiners are willing to pay. Cocaine has advanced, so have iodides. Ergot seems easier, but there is little business doing. Opium is also quiet, but lower grades are in demand. Borax refiners have become very firm in their views of the future of the article, and it is difficult for buyers to get enough at the moment. The drug-sales held to-day were not voluminous, and were without special feature. The following are the principal alterations of the week:—

Higher	Firmer	Lower
Camphor Cocaine Copper sulphate Iodides Oil, star anise Oil, turpentine Senna Vanilla	Menthol Opium	Benzoin Bleaching-powder Caustic soda Gamboge Oil, cod-liver Rhubarb Wax, Japan

Next Year's Drug-auctions.

The dates for the drug-sales of 1899 have been fixed. The first auction will be on January 19, so there will be an interval of six weeks between the auctions of December 8 and the above date. The auctions which in the usual course would be held on March 30 and August 3 have been left out, owing to the intervening Good Friday and Bank Holiday.

Java Cinchona.

The report of the Batavian Government on the operations of the Government cinchona-plantations during 1897 has just been published, but it contains few features of special interest or which have not been referred to already in this journal. During the year the plantations sold 321,773 kilos. of bark, and the profit for the year was 9,900 florins—not a large figure, but the director says it would have been double were he not bound down by rules which prevent free action. The report concludes with a paragraph of significant advice to private planters, which is notable since it has the endorsement of the Batavian Government—viz., that if the planters are far-seeing enough to support the Bandoeng quinine-factory, and only send moderate supplies of bark to Europe, the future should be a bright one for them, and they should have no difficulty in keeping up prices.

The Late Mr. C. T. Ashmore.

At the drug-sales to-day, Mr. Figgis, before commencing his catalogue, said that everybody would expect that some notice would be taken in that room of the removal from their midst of one of their oldest friends in the drug trade—their good friend Mr. Charles Townshend Ashmore. He was

known to them all as an English gentleman and a man of the straightest cut in business. His cheerfulness, his geniality in all the conditions of life, were the qualities which all desired to have and admired in him. Some of them had known him for many years; he himself became acquainted with him in Liverpool forty-two years ago as a lad. He was known and liked for his courage, spirits, and universal bonhomie. He never made an enemy, but made many friends. He was well known, too, in America. He was a man whose word was his bond, and whom it was a pleasure and privilege to come in contact with. Mr. F. Harwood Lescher asked to be allowed to say a few words. He had had the pleasure of knowing the late Mr. Ashmore for 36 years, and on his own behalf and on behalf of other wholesale druggists, he would like to say that Mr. Figgis's words were well-timed and expressed what they all thought. Mr. A. H. Ashmore briefly returned thanks.

Heavy Chemicals.

There is little change to be reported in the general condition of the heavy-chemical market. A fairly steady business is passing, and orders for forward delivery have been rather more numerous. Values are much the same as lately reported.

ALKALI PRODUCE.—Bleaching-powder continues with a downward tendency, and is now quoted over next year at 4*l*. 2*s*. 6*d*. to 4*l*. 5*s*. for soft-wood casks on rails. Stocks of caustic soda continue to increase, and values are lower, present figures for prompt being nominally as follows:—60 per cent., 6*l*. to 6*l*. 2*s*. 6*d*.; 70 per cent., 7*l*. to 7*l*. 2*s*. 6*d*.; 74 per cent., 7*l*. 10*s*. to 7*l*. 12*s*. 6*d*.; all f.o.b. Liverpool; and 76 to 77 per cent., 7*l*. 15*s*. to 7*l*. 17*s*. 6*d*.; f.o.b. Tyne or Liverpool. For forward contracts it is reported that about 5*s*. per ton less is in some cases being accepted. Bicarbonate of soda unchanged at 6*l*. 10*s*. per ton, f.o.b. Liverpool, in 10-cwt. casks, and 6*l*. 15*s*. in 1-cwt. kegs. Soda ash, caustic and carbonated, 4*l*. 7*s*. 6*d*. to 4*l*. 17*s*. 6*d*.; free on rails. Soda crystals are in good demand at 2*l*. 17*s*. 6*d*. f.o.b. Liverpool, and 2*l*. 12*s*. 6*d*. f.o.b. Tyne. Ammonia alkali moving steadily, 3*l*. 17*s*. 6*d*. to 4*l*. in bags on rails, and 4*l*. f.o.b. Liverpool. Salt-cake, 26*s*. per ton, free on rails in bulk. Chlorate of potash steady at 3*l*. 3*d*.; next year's quotation is 3*l*. 2*d*. to 3*l*. 3*d*. Chlorate of soda steady, 3*l*. 3*d*. Yellow prussiate of potash firm and in good demand; best Lancashire makes are quoted 6*l*. 3*d*. to 7*d*. per lb. Silicates of soda in fair request, 140° Tw., 3*l*. 7*s*. 6*d*.; 100° Tw., 3*l*.; and 75° Tw., 2*l*. 15*s*. net f.o.b. in ordinary casks, with usual differences for other packages.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.—Fairly steady. Beckton, 10*l*.; January-June, 10*l*.; Beckton terms, 9*l*. 17*s*. 6*d*.; Hull and Leith, 10*l*.; and London, 10*l*. 2*s*. 6*d*. Exports from Leith last week amounted to 327 tons.

SULPHOCYANIDES.—Dull, and values stand unchanged. Ammonium, 95 per cent., 5*l*. 5*d*.; barium, 95 per cent., 4*d*.; and potassium, 6*l*. 3*d*.

PHOSPHORUS continues to move steadily, at old rates: sticks, 2*s*. to 2*s*. 1*d*.; and wedges, 1*s*. 11*d*. to 2*s*. Amorphous, 2*s*. 8½*d*. per lb.

PEARL-HARDENING.—In steady request; 3*l*. f.o.b.

BORAX AND BORACIC ACID are firm and higher; also scarce, owing to heavier and good demand. Crystals are respectively 15*s*. and 24*s*. 6*d*.; and powdered, 15*s*. 6*d*. and 22*s*. 6*d*.

PICRIC ACID.—Steady, at 1*s*. per lb.

SULPHATE OF COPPER.—Dearer. Anchor, 19*l*.; Liverpool, 19*l*. 5*s*.; second hands, 18*l*. 15*s*. to 18*l*. 17*s*. 6*d*.

NITRATE OF SODA.—Steady. Refined, 8*s*.; and ordinary, 7*s*. 7½*d*.

Liverpool Drug-market.

Liverpool, November 24.

CASTOR OIL.—Good seconds Calcutta, after declining to 2½*d*. again returned to 3*d*. per lb., but as there are several sellers from the quay a weaker tendency is now shown, and the latter price would be shaded in quantity. First-pressure French is procurable at 2½*d*. to 3*d*. as in quantity, and Madras good seconds 2½*d*. At auction during the week some good seconds Madras, second-pressure French, and sulphur French offered, but there were no bids.

CANARY-SEED.—The market is steady without new feature, and sales are reported of good Turkish at 28*s*. 6*d*. to 30*s*. per quarter, and 180 bags of Spanish at 31*s*. per quarter.

POTASHES.—Montreal potashes are better, sales having been made at 24*s*. 6*d*.; and now 25*s*. per cwt. is asked. Pearlashes are nominally held for 34*s*. 6*d*. to 35*s*.

TURPENTINE has risen rapidly during the week, and business is recorded at 29*s*. per cwt., with the prospect of 30*s*. in the near future.

GINGER.—25 bags of "off quality" Sierra Leone have changed hands, at 18*s*. 6*d*. per cwt. in store.

HONEY.—The stocks are gradually being reduced to a very narrow compass. Sales of Chilian have been effected at prices slightly over late rates, and in the entire absence of Californian this description is commanding increasing attention from buyers. About 30 barrels of No. 1. Pile Peruvian were reported at 20s. in store.

CHILLIES.—Thirty-six packages of Sierra Leone, common to good quality, sold at 23s. 6d. to 34s. per cwt.; but fine bright reds command 42s. 6d. to 45s. per cwt., and yet better prices are looked for in the latter grade.

CREAM OF TARTAR.—This is held with increasing firmness at 75s. to 78s., according to quality.

QUILLAI-BARK.—Held with firmness, owing to the small available stocks; but, so far, no advance has been made from the last price advised.

BEE-SWAX.—Sales of Chilian are reported at 6l. 10s., mixed quality; but holders show little disposition to meet the views of buyers, and rates may be said to be unchanged.

GUMS.—Small sales of Soudan sorts are reported at 65s. per cwt., and, though not characterised by much activity, the market is very steady. Small arrivals are taking place, and stocks are again slowly growing. One ton of good-coloured Brazilian soluble gum sold at 23s. 6d. per cwt.

GUM GUAIACUM.—A parcel of about 20 packages offered at auction, low drossy grade, but no bid was forthcoming.

KOLA-NUTS.—At auction 2½d. was asked for good dry. No fresh are available.

SCAMMONY-ROOT.—Forty-three bales are reported as having changed hands at 22s. 6d. per cwt.

GRAINS OF PARADISE.—Further sales at 50s., and now nothing less than 70s. would be taken.

German Drug-market.

Hamburg, November 22.

The drug-market is quiet, and only a few articles are of interest this week.

AGAR-AGAR is firm at 330m. per 100 kilos.

STAR-ANISE is very firm and scarce, holders ask to-day 290m. per 100 kilos. for spot delivery.

CAMPHOR (REFINED) shows a very strong market. On the spot 295m. has been paid, and for forward-delivery 300m. per 100 kilos. is quoted.

COCAINE is also tending upwards; prices vary, according to brand, from 340m. to 360m. per kilo. for pure hydrochloride. Crude is scarce.

CASCARA SAGRADA is also very firm at 48m. per 100 kilos.

GENTIAN is quiet and easier at 32m. per 100 kilos.

HONEY is firm, especially Californian, which is scarce; light amber is held for 73m. per 100 kilos.

MENTHOL is very firm with a good demand; to-day's price is 153m. per kilo.

IPECACUANHA is a strong market at 24m. for Rio; Cartagena, 15½m. to 16m. per kilo.

WORMSEED is firmer at 42m. to 44m. per 100 kilos.

QUININE is very firm at 28½m. per kilo.; the factories only execute orders for small quantities, in order not to encourage speculation.

WAX is quiet: Japan at 65½m., on the spot; forward at 64½m. per 100 kilos.

OILS.—In Essential oils star-anise is quoted at 14½m. per kilo., citronella quiet at 250m. per 100 kilos., and cajuput 87m. per case. H.G.H. peppermint quiet at 5¼m. per lb., and Japanese very firm at 7¼m. per kilo.

American Markets.

New York, November 15.

General business continues good, and while there have been no important fluctuations, the tone of the market is strong. The satisfactory result of the recent elections has served in general to stimulate trade, and dealers express more confidence than for some time past.

ALOES, CURACOA.—The demand is excellent, and considerable business has passed at 3¼c. from second hands. Stocks in first hands are light, and 3½c. is now generally quoted.

ALOIN.—Stocks have been reduced, and holders now ask 35c. to 38c.

CASCARA SAGRADA is offered sparingly at 6c. to 6½c., on the spot. Stocks on the Pacific are very light, and holders ask the equivalent of 7c. New York.

DAMIANA-LEAVES are in better supply and offerings are more liberal. The spot quotation has declined to 10½c.

ERGOT continues scarce, and the market is very strong, with only small lots of German obtainable, at 33c. Spanish is strong at 40c., with the probability of further advance.

GOLDEN SEAL (Hydrastis) continues to be offered from the growing centres at 50c., and as much as 52c. has been paid for small lots. Local dealers refuse to pay the price asked.

JABORANDI LEAVES are firmer, in view of scarcity, and 9c. is now the lowest quotation for ordinary quality.

QUININE continues in good demand, but foreign still remains at 20c., and domestic-makers continue to quote 22c.

OPUM is a little firmer, but quotations continue unchanged at \$3.55 for cases. The demand shows a slight improvement.

Cablegrams.

HAMBURG, November 24, 11 24 A.M.—The market here has a firmer tone. Refined camphor is 300m. per 100 kilos. and menthol is firm at 16½m. per kilo. Turpentine is also steady at 56m. per 100 kilos.

SMYRNA, November 23, 12 10 P.M.—The agents for American houses are again buying largely, and have paid the equivalent of 9s. 6d. to 9s. 8d. per lb. f.o.b. for druggists'. The drought still continues, and speculation is on foot, with the result that an advance is expected.

NEW YORK, November 23, 3 P.M.—On this market a fair business has been done this week. Curaçoa aloes is scarce at 4s. per lb., and aloin shows an advancing market at 40c. per lb. Business has been done in cascara sagrada at 6½c., and the market closes dearer. Senega is in plentiful supply, and 24c. is asked. Refined camphor is advancing, in sympathy with European markets, and 38½c. per lb. is quoted to-day. Coca-leaves are in active demand at 14c., and valerian-root is quoted at 7c. per lb.

London Markets.

ACETANILIDE.—No business of importance has transpired this week, the quotation for 1-cwt. lots still remaining at 11½d. per lb., although second-hand holders would not refuse a bid of 10¾d.

ACETONE.—The quotation for immediate delivery is 60s. per cwt. in small quantities. The Government have recently purchased about 600 tons by tender at a much lower price. The contract has been divided between six makers, who are extremely busy.

ACID, CITRIC.—Unchanged at the quotations of last week.

The shipments of lemon and bergamot juice from Messina during October were 136 pipes, and stocks of first-mentioned are now cleared, the last lots having been shipped to Glasgow. Quotations are therefore nominal, December-March delivery being quoted at 13½d. 2s. 6d. per pipe, with buyers at 12½d. 17s. 6d. In bergamot-juice holders are nursing their stocks, owing to the small crop this year, and nothing is offered. December-February delivery is nominally quoted at 10½d. 10s. per pipe.

ACID, OXALIC.—Unchanged at 3½d. to 3¾d. per lb. net on the spot.

ALMONDS.—Advices from Messina to hand this week state that there has been a good export-demand recently and that the market has considerably advanced: the crop has also been lighter than anticipated. Best Avolas are quoted nominally 12½s. c.i.f.

ANISE, STAR.—Good Chinese was bought in at the auction to-day at 7½d. 10s. per cwt., a bid of 6½d. 12s. 6d. being refused.

BORAX.—The low rates which have been ruling during this year have at last come to a stop, and this week refiners have refused to make forward contracts at the current rate, 14s. 6d. per cwt. For wholesale lots 15s. is wanted for crystals, and 15s. 6d. for powder. Refiners are very firm holders, and buyers being eager to obtain supplies an advance is looked for; the same applies to boric acid, which is 24s. 6d. for crystals. Both articles are difficult to get in sufficient quantity.

CAMPHOR (CRUDE).—Following upon the advance in the price of refined camphor, business was done in crude Chinese on Tuesday at 100s. per cwt., c.i.f., November-December shipment, to the extent of 200 piculs, at which rate there are still buyers but no sellers. For Japanese November-December shipment 107s., c.i.f., was at the same time asked, but the quotation was withdrawn. Wednesday's cable-advice from Hong-Kong state that the merchants there demand higher rates, 107s. being their price, and 103s. c.i.f. is the latest London price. It is understood that the camphor syndicate have disposed of a large part of their holdings recently to American buyers.

CAMPHOR (REFINED).—Dearer, the advance which we

predicted last week having been made on Monday by English refiners raising their prices by 1*d.* per lb., so that bells and flowers are now at the rate of 1*s.* 5½*d.*, or 1*d.* less in ton-quantities; but one refiner refuses to sell in ton lots under 1*s.* 5½*d.*, and that figure is to be made official immediately. German refiners advanced their prices by ¾*d.* per lb. on Tuesday, making their quotation 1*s.* 5*d.*, and 1*d.* less for ton-quantities. They are also to quote higher rates after we go to press. Tablets have also been advanced from 1*s.* 6½*d.* to 1*s.* 9*d.* per lb., according to size. Flowers are the same rate as bells, but 1*d.* higher in 1-lb. boxes. The market is very firm, and as refiners are buying crude as they want it their present prices are "without engagement," and subject to advance at any moment. We refer more fully to the matter in a separate article.

COCAINE.—Last Friday the principal manufacturers of hydrochloride raised their prices to 10*s.* 3*d.* per oz. for 100-oz. quantities; for 25-oz. lots in 1-oz. bottles 10*s.* 9*d.* is the price. There are a few second-hand holders who offer contract quantities at 10*s.* per oz. The market is exceedingly firm, and another 1*s.* rise is expected.

COCOA-BUTTER.—The auctions in Amsterdam, to be held on December 6, will consist of 80 tons Van Houten's brand, 20 tons Hamer, 5 tons Helm, 23 tons Suchard. Here on the same date 55 tons of Cadbury's make will be offered.

CREAM OF TARTAR.—Steady, at 75*s.* for 95-per-cent. powder on the spot, and 98 to 100 per cent., 80*s.* per cwt. Lower strengths are quoted at 73*s.* for crystals, and 74*s.* for powder.

GALLS.—Firm, but unchanged, at last week's prices, a few small lots of Persian blues changing hands at 57*s.* 6*d.* The stock of green and white on the spot is almost exhausted. Supplies of blue Smyrna galls are moderate, and held for high prices—viz., 50*s.* to 55*s.* per cwt. A sale of 100 cases Chinese is reported at 58*s.*, c.i.f. Continent to arrive.

IODINE PREPARATIONS.—Although iodine remains unchanged (7½*d.* per cz. from the syndicate), all the makers have advanced the prices of iodides, resublimed iodine, and iodoform by 3*d.* per lb., the new quotations being as follows: Resublimed iodine 12*s.* per lb. (3*d.* per lb. less for a 28lb. parcel), iodoform 13*s.* 10*d.* per lb. (reduction as on iodine), potassium iodide 10*s.* 6*d.* to 10*s.* per lb. (the latter for 1 cwt.), sodium iodide 11*s.* 10*d.* per lb. (reduction as on iodine).

JUNIPER-BERRIES.—Sifted of first quality are quoted at 7*s.* per cwt., c. and f. terms.

MANNA.—Messina letters report that the export-demand has fallen away, and, in consequence, prices are somewhat easier at 2*s.* 2½*d.* for large flake in 20-lb. boxes; and small flake 10*d.* per lb., f.o.b. Messina.

OIL, LEMON.—The market in Messina remains firm; here there is little doing, and a good brand is obtainable at 3*s.* 9*d.* per lb. net on the spot.

OIL, OLIVE.—Reports from the growing-districts in Italy intimate that the crops have been further damaged by the hot weather and continued siroccos, so that the yield is estimated at about one-third of the average, and quality only poor. Tuscan pure is quoted at 60*l.* per ton of 1,045 kilos. in pipes; cream extra, 57*l.*; extra sublime, 53*l.*; sublime, 49*l.*; and superfine, 46*l.*, c. and f. London. In the drug-auctions one firm of brokers offered a lot of R. S. Valle's oil in 3-gal. tins with brass tap at the bottom, which is a suitable line for retailers, was bought in, the price being 5*s.* per gal.

OIL, STAR-ANISE.—Firm. The spot quotation is 6*s.* 2*d.* per lb., and this is reported to have been paid in one quarter; for November-December shipment 6*s.* 1½*d.* c.i.f. is asked.

OIL, TURPENTINE.—Dearer, at 29*s.* per cwt. on the spot for American.

OPIMUM.—The London market has been fairly active this week, especially in the lower grades of Persian for manufacturing-purposes, 10*s.* to 10*s.* 3*d.* per lb. having been paid for spot. No business is reported in fine Persian, and "soft-shipping" is entirely neglected. The news to hand on Wednesday that America is again buying has given a firmer tone to the market.

CONSTANTINOPLE.—More business has resulted this week, upwards of 90 cases changing hands at 10*s.* to 10*s.* 3*d.* per lb., f.o.b., for druggists. The market still retains its steady, quiet tone.

The weather shows signs of breaking up, which will put a stop to sowing-operations. The amount of seed put underground up to the present is restricted.

PHENACETIN.—Purchases have been heavy lately at 3*s.* 6*d.* per lb., and the position of the article is good.

QUININE.—The mild excitement of last week appears to have subsided, and the article is hanging fire for the moment at the nominal quotation of 10½*d.* to 11*d.* per oz. for German, and 10½*d.* for "Imperial." There are speculative buyers in the market, but they cannot get supplies from the makers. There is general expectation of a rise, and some surprise that the makers have not intimated one, but experienced merchants take the view already expressed in these columns—viz., that manufacturers have had their business arrangements in the past so much disturbed by speculators underselling them when advances have been made, that they will not move now until they are actually compelled, and the position of bark does not favour any movement. Two cases of Taillandier's brand were limited in auction at 10½*d.* per cz., and B. & S. at 11*d.*

SALICIN.—A German manufacturer has reduced his price to 9*s.* 9*d.* per lb., f.o.b. Hamburg, for 1-cwt. lots, but other makers all show a firm front at the last quotation, 10*s.*, spot.

SEEDS.—The new crop of Russian Anise is of good quality, and is selling on arrival at 19*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. Morocco Coriander is steady at 7*s.* per cwt. for old crop; English can be bought at 12*s.* Caraways dull and unchanged at 22*s.* per cwt. Cumin firm, with sales of good Malta at 27*s.* per cwt. Canary rather easier for Turkish, with sellers at 28*s.* per qr., but finer qualities are firm. Fenugreek is offering cheaper to arrive, but the spot-value remains at 9*s.* per cwt. for good Morocco. Linseed is selling at 44*s.* to 45*s.* per qr. for good bold clean.

SODA BICARBONATE is 7*l.* 5*s.* per ton in kegs ex warehouse, and 6*l.* 15*s.* f.o.b. Liverpool.

SPICES.—A very quiet week, without much change in prices; pepper and cloves are rather lower for futures, but spot-values are steady. At Wednesday's auctions, which were light, boldish washed rough Cochin ginger, slightly wormy, sold at 22*s.* to 22*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.; and B cut at 61*s.* per cwt. Pimento partly sold at 4½*d.* per lb. for common; at 4¾*d.* for fair; and at 4¾*d.* for good. Bermuda Arrow-root sold at 1*s.* 10*d.*; and good St. Vincent at 3½*d.* per lb. Mace and Nutmegs slow of sale. Ordinary picked Sierra Leone Capsicums sold at 27*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. Hard Cinnamon sold at 7*d.* to 7½*d.* per lb., being very full prices. All the Pepper in sale was bought in with the exception of some good Penang white, which brought 7½*d.* per lb. Fair, on the spot, is worth 7½*d.*; and for January-March steamer 7½*d.* per lb. Singapore black sells at 4½*d.*, and new crop at 5*d.* per lb. to arrive. Zanzibar Cloves steady, but easier for delivery, January-March being done at 3¾*d.* per lb.

SULPHUR.—Easier, at 6*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* to 6*l.* 10*s.* per ton for foreign flowers on the spot, and 6*l.* to 6*l.* 5*s.* per ton for roll, according to quantity.

TRAGACANTH.—Only a small selection is now available, and full prices are obtained when business is done. Persian firsts are quoted at 13*l.* 10*s.* to 14*l.* 10*s.*, seconds at 12*l.* to 12*l.* 10*s.*, and thirds at 11*l.* to 11*l.* 5*s.* per cwt.

VANILLIN.—The present price for a well-known German brand, in crystals, is 3*s.* 3*d.* per oz. in 16-oz. lots, and tins in proportion.

WAX, JAPAN, is lower, at 31*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., c.i.f., for good pale squares.

Drug-auctions in London.

The following is a list of the goods offered and sold publicly to-day:—

	Offered	Sold		Offered	Sold
Aconite-root.....	4	0	Argol	17	17
Aloes, Curaçao.....	15	0	Asafetida	114	22
Socotrine	77	0	Balsam copaiba ..	12	0
Ambergris.....	1	0	Tolu	25	6
Aniseed	44	10	Benzoin.....	226	18
star.....	1	0	Buchu	26	18
Annatto-seed	35	0	Calumba	639	383
Antimony	40	0	Camphor (refined)	40	30

	Offered	Sold		Offered	Sold
Cardamoms	247	94	Nux vomica	519	2
Cascara sagrada ...	100	0	Oil, bay	2	1
Cascarilla	11	1	castor	80	0
Cinchona	145	21	cinnamon	14	0
Civet	9	0	citronella	21	1
Coca-leaves	5	0	cloves	4	0
Colocynth	14	9	cod-liver	25	25
Coriander	50	0	eucalyptus	12	0
Croton-seed	67	0	lemongrass	75	0
Cubebs	105	15	lime	8	7
Cuscuta	10	0	neroli	3	0
Cuttlefish-bone ...	20	0	nutmeg	1	0
Damiana	5	0	olive	7	0
Dill-seed	183	0	peppermint	9	0
Dragon's-blood ...	10	1	rose (Bombay)...	3	0
Ergot of rye	56	0	sassafras	5	0
Galangal	10	0	spearmint	2	0
Gamboge	19	7	wintergreen	3	0
Gentian	30	0	wood	2	0
Guaiacum	1	0	ylang-ylang	3	0
Guinea-grains	2	0	Orange-peel	22	0
Gum ammoniacum ..	5	0	Orris-root	5	0
arabic	27	0	Quinine	3	0
olibanum	1	1	Rhubarb	294	89
Honey	50	62	Sarsaparilla	67	43
Ipecacuanha (Cart.)	18	2	Scammony-root ..	2	0
Ipecacuanha (Rio) ..	46	2	Senna	454	391
Jalap	11	0	Soy	13	3
Kamala	13	0	Squills	23	21
Kino	17	0	Tamarinds	50	0
Kola-nuts	16	0	Tonka-beans	11	0
Lime-juice	1	0	Turmeric	63	10
Liquorice-root	5	0	Vanilla	326	most
Matico-leaves	9	0	Vermilion	16	0
Menthol	6	6	Wangchi	6	0
Musk	8	0	Wax (bees')	489	58
Myrrh	35	0	Japan	45	0

ACONITE-ROOT.—Japanese root has been selling freely of late at 27s. 6d. per cwt. No sales in auction, the only lot offered being bought in at 29s. per cwt.

ALOES.—In poor supply to-day, and, as the stocks are low, higher rates are looked for. Quiet, nothing of any description selling privately. For fair livery Curaçao bids of 21s. and 21s. 6d. are to be submitted. Good pasty brown Socotrine were limited at 72s. 6d. to 75s., and for hard, cakey, but genuine, a bid of 71s. was refused.

ANISEED.—Best Italian seed is offered at 32s. per cwt. c. and f. terms. In auction small Russian was limited at 19s. per cwt.

ANNATTO-SEED.—For good dark East Indian seed 3½d. was bid and refused, the limit being 4d. per lb.

ARGOL.—Fine pale firsts from the Cape sold with good competition at 53s., and rather dirty seconds at 43s. per cwt.

ASA-FETIDA sold fairly well in auction at the valuations, though prices were easier for lower qualities, 25s. to 27s. being paid for red and grey mixed. For fine white hard block 45s. was bid and refused, but several lots of this grade changed hands at 50s. after the sales. A case of low stuff sold at 5s. per cwt., subject.

BALSAM COPAIBA.—Filtered Maranham was limited at 1s. 8d. per lb. in auction. Another lot of fine filtered Maracaibo were taken out without mention of price.

BALSAM TOLU.—Good hard to part drossy balsam was limited at 1s. 7d., while another parcel sold at 1s. 6d. per lb.

BENZON.—Business in this gum-resin continues very brisk, and sales of benzoin have been made privately at current rates. Lower tendency in auction, however, as the following record shows:—For fair seconds Sumatra, well almonded and of fair aroma, 7l. 17s. 6d. was the highest bid, and 8l. 10s. was wanted. The only sales were of dull low brown, glassy and barked, at 4l. 5s. and 4l. 10s. No Siam sold, nor Penang, a bid of 51s. per cwt. for a lot of brown poor stuff of the latter description being refused. In consequence of the indifference and "bear" views of buyers, brokers withdrew all grades.

BUCHU.—Steady and unchanged. In auction almost

everything was disposed of, fair round green leaves selling readily at 5½d. to 5¾d., and ditto yellowish and stalky at 4½d. per lb.

CALUMBA.—In good demand at steady prices, fair washed sorts, part rough, selling at 23s. 6d., 21s. 6d., and 23s. 6d. per cwt. For ordinary brownish and dull, mixed sizes, from 12s. to 16s. was paid, and for a string of this grade 11s. 6d. was bid and refused; fine bold yellow was bought in at 50s. per cwt. Privately, business has been done in dark sorts at 16s.

CAMPHOR (REFINED).—In auction a parcel of Japanese sold without reserve at 1s. 3¼d. for ½-cz. tablets and 1s. 2d. for 1-oz. tablets. Another lot of Japanese was bought in at 1s. 4d. per lb. nominally.

CARDAMOMS sold irregularly, but on the whole at full rates. There was one parcel of bold pale round Ceylon Mysore pods, for which 4s. per lb. was refused, 4s. 2d. being the price; others of the same group, but not so fine, were sold at 3s. 8d. to 3s. 10d.; small to medium pale round, 2s. 7d. to 2s. 9d.; medium to bold brown round, 2s. 5d. to 2s. 11d.; pale medium flongs, 2s. 4d. (subject) and 2s. 7d.; small palish rounds, 2s. 6d.; brown medium longs, 2s. 5d.; splits and pickings, 1s. 6d. for the poor and 2s. to 2s. 6d. for the better qualities. Wild long Ceylons sold at 3s. 8d. to 4s. per lb. Malabars were also offered, but brokers withdrew them and some Mysore when they caught the tone of the room. Husks sold for 4d., and good seeds at 3s. to 3s. 1d.

The exports from Ceylon for the week ending November 1 were 12,418 lbs., and from January 1 to November 1:—

	1898	1897	1896	1895
Lbs. ...	408,113	409,546	289,552	289,862

CASCARILLA.—This market is cleared of bold quill. An arrival of 22 packages at Hamburg is reported. Small to bold silvery quill but stringy was bought in at 40s., a bid of 34s. being rejected. Another lot of thin small pale was limited at 35s. per cwt.

CINCHONA.—Good thin quill Guayaquil-Loxa crown bark was limited at 6d. to 8d. per lb.; damages ditto, sold at 2d. to 4d. per lb.; and a parcel of mossy bark sold at 6½d. per lb. Guayaquil red bark of bright colour, well matured, sold at 1s. 6d. to 1s. 7d.; and dark and damaged at 4d. to 6½d. per lb.

Exports from Ceylon from January 1 to November 1 were:—

	1898	1897	1896	1895
Lbs. ...	764,408	611,926	1,231,359	836,070

COCA-LEAVES.—Some damaged Truxillos were offered to-day, but did not sell, and 7d. was the limit placed on fair leaves.

The exports from Java from July 1 to August 31 were:—

	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894
Bales	155	170	150	105	64

COLOCYNTH.—In better demand, 11½d. being paid for good pale apple, and 6d. and 7½d. for broken.

CROTON-SEED.—No sales publicly, everything being withdrawn at firm prices—viz., 80s. to 85s. for good bold, and 82s. 6d. for Japanese.

CUBEBS.—The shipments from Java from July 1 to August 31 were:—

	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894
Piculs]	573	366	320	916	909

A sale was made publicly to-day—the first for many months, 24s. per cwt. being paid for medium stalky berries. For another lot 23s. was refused.

DRAGON'S-BLOOD.—The only kind sold was very hard brickly saucers of good colour, for which 10l. 15s. was obtained.

ERGOT.—Further sales privately of Spanish at 2s. 3d. per lb. are reported. Sales of Russian continue at 1s. 6d. per lb. for the best, but small can be had at 1s. 5d. or less. On the whole there is not much business doing. Americans have been buying from hand to mouth. In auction Russian was limited at 1s. 6d.; one lot of weevilly being bought in at 1s. 5d., less would be taken; and Spanish was limited at 2s. 6d. to 3s. per lb.

GAMBOGE.—Broken and partly blocky pipe of fair colour sold at 7l. 10s.; darker ditto, rather "off," at 6l. 7s. 6d.

GUINEA-GRAINS.—60s. per cwt. was bid for a bright lot and refused, 65s. being the limit.

GUM ARABIC.—Privately there has been a steady demand for Trieste picked, at steady prices. A few parcels of Amrad gum are offering at about 37s. 6d., but they are slow of sale. In so-called Persian insoluble sorts a good business has again been done, about 12 tons of the new arrivals having been placed at 23s. to 23s. per cwt. for medium grades. The market is almost bare of pale selected, and prices are only nominal. In the drug-auctions pea-grain Trieste was bought in at 6l. 12s. 6d. to 7l., and medium tear at 9l. per cwt.

GUM OLIBANUM.—Some dark and poor gum, rather woody, sold at 10s. per cwt.

HONEY.—Fine yellow Italian honey is held for 25s., and extra-white, in tins, at 33s. per cwt. White set Honolulu sold at 21s. per cwt. Fair clear Jamaica sold at 20s.; seconds ditto, clear, 19s.; part set and dirty, 18s. 6d. to 19s.

IPECACUANHA.—Holders of Rio to-day showed a slightly easier tendency, but there was no demand publicly, only one bale of fine sound root selling at 9s. 10d., and a bale of small native picked red at 9s. 8d. per lb. Cartagena was unchanged at 6s. 11d. to 7s. for small bold root; the best lots were limited at 7s. 6d., a bid of 7s. being refused.

JALAP.—The market is firmer, sales having been made since our last at 6½d. to 7d., but nothing is now to be had under 7d. per lb. In auction one string of small to bold tubers was limited at 7d. per lb.

KINO.—African and Cochin kinds were offered to-day, and up to 3s. per lb. was bid for fine guaranteed African and declined, the limit being 4s. per lb. for the poorer brown variety. Cochin garnet grain is now limited at 10s. per lb.

KOLA-NUTS.—Lifeless in auction. The exports from Grenada, W.I., during 1897 amounted to 88l. only, as compared with 18l. in 1896, and 133l. in 1895.

MATICO.—There was no bid in auction for a parcel of fair brownish.

MENTHOL has a firmer tendency at 7s. to 7s. 3d. per lb. on the spot, and in one quarter as much as 7s. 6d. is asked, though this figure has not been paid. A Japan house quotes 7s. 11d. c.i.f. for forward delivery. The lot of detached crystals offered in auction was reported to have been sold privately.

MUSK.—For fine thin blue Tonquin pods part, broken, 65s. per oz. was refused. This kind is selling privately in fair quantity at 70s. up to 75s. for the best pile 2 at 40s. to 45s., and pile 3 thick outer skin at 24s.

NUX VOMICA.—The sales were of the poorest quality, dark and dirty small to medium nuts being limited at 5s. 6d., but no one would bid more than 5s., and for a small lot of loose collected 4s. was paid.

OIL, BAY.—Good full aroma sold at 6s. per lb.

OIL, CASTOR.—Steady, with a fair business in Belgian of first and second pressing at last week's prices. Italian medicinal is quoted at 34s. 6d. to 35s. per cwt. c.i.f. down to 32s. 6d. for prime. Belgian medicinal is 30s. c.i.f. for contract-quantities. No sales in "No. 10," but 'Change quotations are rather easier for forward contracts, and sellers are inclined to take less for the first three months of 1899, but they are steady on the spot.

OIL, CINNAMON.—For leaf-oil 3½d. per oz. was wanted in auction.

The exports of both bark and leaf oil from Colombo from January 1 to November 1 were:—

	1898	1897	1896	1895
Oz. ...	139,624	112,119	96,567	49,938

OIL, CITRONELLA.—Green of fair aroma sold at 11½d. per lb., subject to seller's approval; and good pale was limited at 1d. per oz.

The exports from Ceylon from January 1 to November 1 were:—

	1898	1897	1896	1895
Lbs. ...	1,198,138	895,858	906,449	873,034

OIL, CLOVES.—In auction J.B.H. brand was bought in. This oil has been selling recently at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. per lb. according to quantity.

OIL, COD-LIVER.—Agents are now doing business nearer the parity of the Bergen quotations, and holders of old oils are anxious to realise in auction. Norwegian 1896 oil, offered without reserve, sold at 50s. to 57s. per barrel. This oil had a brownish tinge and a strong fishy odour, and must not be regarded as nearly equal to 1893 oil, for which prices ranging between 75s. and 80s. are wanted.

BERGEN, November 22.—The market is quite inactive, and the tendency is weaker in consequence of the approach of the new season. Best Lofoten non-congealing medicinal oil is now offered at 70s. per barrel, f.o.b. The exports from Bergen up to date have been 7,414 barrels against 9,503 barrels at the corresponding period of last year.

OIL, EUCALYPTUS.—Ninepence-halfpenny was paid for a Victorian oil of unstated origin, and Platypus was limited at 2s. 4d. per lb.

OIL, LIMES.—Poor W.I. distilled oil sold at 3s. per lb., and a better lot at 3s. 6d., subject.

OIL, NEROLI.—"Bigarade" and "Portugal" are not usual offers in the drug-sales. The latter was limited at 2s. 3d. per oz.

OIL, PEPPERMINT.—Japanese 40 per cent. is cabled this week at 5s. 4d. per lb. c.i.f. for prompt shipment, and at 5s. on the spot. Dimentholised is firm at 3s. 11d. c.i.f., or at 3s. 6d. on the spot. HGH American oil moves slowly at 5s. 4½d. per lb. on the spot.

ORANGE-PEEL.—Better supplies are to hand, and can be got at the recent rates or less.

RHUBARB.—Slow of sale, and easier for lower qualities. Small to medium round Canton sold at 11d. per lb.; pickings, 10d. A parcel of Canton and Shensi mixed medium sizes sold at 1s. 3d., and bold ditto 1s. 6d. (subject). Good medium round Shensi, fair fracture but stemmy, sold at 1s. per lb.; good druggists' trimming, compact, good fracture, 2s. 9d.; and pickings, 1s. 2d. Small flat, high-dried, good fracture sold at 10½d.; common rough, 10½d. down to 4½d.

SARSAPARILLA.—Quiet. Good bold Guayaquil sold at 1s. 1d. for sound and 10d. to 11d. for damages. Lima-Jamaica mouldy, thin, fibrous at 1s.; good grey Vera Cruz at 7d., and Honduras was limited at 1s. 6d. per lb.

SENNA.—Some Alexandrian siftings sold at 2½d. Tinnevely was higher for the best grades, 5d. to 5½d. per lb. being paid for good bold green leaf; 3½d. to 4½d. for seconds ditto; medium ditto sold at 2½d.; medium, part brown, 1½d. to 2½d., and pods sold at 2½d., and damaged ditto 1½d. Mecca leaves were again withdrawn without bid. High prices for Tinnevely early in 1899 are confidently expected by those who know this market well. One hundred bales will arrive next week, but there is little more to come after that.

SOY.—The stuff sold had got mixed with some foreign matter, and someone paid 1d. per gallon for it.

SQUILLS.—Dry seconds, offered without reserve, sold at 2½d. per lb., and good seconds at 3d.

TURMERIC.—At last the parcel of powdered Chinese turmeric which we have seen on several occasions has been sold at 12s. 6d. per cwt. without reserve.

VANILLA.—Sold well in auction at about 2s. per lb. advance on the finer qualities. The following were some of the prices paid:—Mauritius, 7 to 8 in., 28s.; 6 to 7 in., 25s.; 7 to 7½ in., 24s. to 24s. 6d.; 5 to 5½ in., 23s. Bourbon, mixed sizes, 14s. 6d. to 15s. 6d.; 7 in., 25s.; 4½ in. to 5 in., 17s. Seychelles, 6 in., 24s. 6d.; 5 to 5½ in., 21s. Tahiti, 4½ to 6 in., 8s. per lb., subject.

WAX, BEES'.—Values unchanged. Good hard yellow Australian sold at 6l.; dull bleached Calcutta sold at 5l. 5s. to 5l. 7s. 6d.; dull ditto unbleached, bought in 5l. 7s. 6d. Good hard fair-coloured Jamaica sold at 6l. 12s. 6d. to 6l. 15s. per cwt.; and sorts at 6l. 7s. 6d. to 6l. 10s. Dark yellow Madagascar sold at 5l. 17s. 6d.; ditto, rough, at 5l. 15s. Good Mozambique pipe sold at 6l. 5s.

New Japanese Customs Tariff.

IN 1897 we printed a list of the dutiable articles interesting to the drug and chemical trades which are included in the new Japanese customs tariff. Since then much has been written with regard to the matter, and several minor alterations have been made in the list in consequence of negotiations between the United Kingdom, France and Germany, and Austria-Hungary individually with Japan. In view of the importance of the tariff to many in this country we again give the particulars, especially as the Japanese Government have recently communicated to our Government the rates of specific duties upon certain of the articles otherwise given on the *ad valorem* basis.

The specific duties, as far as we can judge, appear to be based upon present values of the articles. These we subjoin:—

(1 kin = $1\frac{1}{3}$ lb., and 1 yen (gold) = 4s. 2d.)

Acid, carbolic	036 yen per kin
" salicylic	157 " "
" tartaric	073 " "
Alcohol	036 " "
Alum	198 yen per 100 kin
Antipyrin	10 % <i>ad valorem</i>
Betelnut	10 % "
Bezoar, cow	10 % "
Biakijutsu (radix atractylis)	877 yen per 100 kin
Bismuth subnitrate	206 yen per kin
Bleaching-powder	10 % <i>ad valorem</i>
Borax	1238 yen per 100 kin
Calumba-root	517 yen per 100 kin
Camphor	377 yen per kin
Cassia, or cinnamon bark	732 yen per 100 kin
Cassia, or cinnamon oil	202 yen per kin
Cataria, leaf of	539 yen per 100 kin
Cinchona-bark	1732 yen per 100 kin
Cinchonine, mur. or sulph.	200 yen per kin
Cinnabar	096 yen per kin
Cloves	1385 yen per 100 kin
Cocaine hydrochloride	12983 yen per kin
Cod-liver oil	10 % <i>ad valorem</i>
Collodion, photographic, with iodizer	10 % "
Cutch and gambier	927 yen per 100 kin
Geutian	1364 " "
Giuseang (Panax)	10 % <i>ad valorem</i>
Glycerin	036 yen per 100 kin
Gum arabic	1307 yen per 100 kin
" benzoin	1124 yen "
" dragon's-blood	10 % <i>ad valorem</i>
" myrrh	10 % "
" olibanum	560 yen per 100 kin
Hops	058 yen per kin
Iodoform	511 yen per kin
Ipecacuanha	36620 yen per 100 kin
Jalap	4581 yen "
Lead acetate	1282 yen "
Liquorice	933 yen "
Manganese, black oxide	10 % <i>ad valorem</i>
Mawo	353 yen per 100 kin
Morphine	4043 yen per kin
Musk	15 % <i>ad valorem</i>
Nard or spikenard	1520 yen per 100 kin
Oil, castor (in tins, casks, and jars)	1060 yen per 100 kin
" cocoanut	1181 yen "
" ground nut	1122 yen "
" kerosene, in tins	016 yen per gallon
" " in casks	010 yen "
" linseed (in tins and casks)	1724 yen per 100 kin
" olive (in tins and casks)	2929 yen "
Spirit of turpentine (in tins or casks)	076 yen per gallon
Phosphorus, amorphous	165 yen per kin
" yellow	12353 yen per 100 kin
Pilocarpine	10 % <i>ad valorem</i>
Potassium bromide	093 yen per kin
" chlorate	2321 yen per 100 kin
" iodide	10 % <i>ad valorem</i>
Putchuk	1410 yen per 100 kin
Quinine, hydrochloride or sulphate	10 % <i>ad valorem</i>
Resin	298 yen per 100 kin
Rhubarb	1387 yen per 100 kin
Saffron	1177 yen per kin
Saltpetre	980 yen per 100 kin
Santonin	380 yen per kin
Sarsaparilla	1681 yen per 100 kin
Semen cynae or worm-seed	1522 yen "
Shellac	055 yen per kin

Soda ash	351 yen per 100 kin
" bicarbonate	457 " "
" caustic	454 " "
" crystals	227 " "
" nitrate	471 " "
" salicylate	142 " "
Sojitsu	462 yen per 100 kin
Sticklac	1870 yen "
Vaseline	1642 yen "
Wagon (rad. scutellarie)	499 yen per 100 kin
All other drugs, medicines & chemicals	10 % <i>ad valorem</i>
Most dye-stuffs pay	10 % "

Coming Events.

We insert notices of association and society meetings in this section free if they are sent to us, on postcards, by the Wednesday of the week before the meetings are to be held.

Monday, November 28.

Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, W.C., at 8 p.m. Cantor Lecture, by Professor Vivian B. Lewes, on "Acetylene." (No. 2.)

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin. Evening meeting at 8.15 p.m. "The Pharmacy of the Organoids," by Dr. J. C. McWalter.

Tuesday, November 29.

Public Dispensers' Association. Meeting at 46 Clarendon Square, King's Cross, at 7.30 p.m. "Urine-analysis," by Mr. Dennen; also a discussion on "How the new Pharmaceutical By-laws affect Public Dispensers."

Bradford and District Chemists' Association, at the County Restaurant, Bradford. Musical evening.

Midland Chemists' Assistants' Association, in the Medical Theatre, Mason College, Birmingham, at 8.30 p.m. Demonstration with an electric-projecting microscopic lantern by Mr. Dencer Whittles.

Wednesday, November 30.

Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, W.C., at 8 p.m. Mr. C. H. Bothamley on "Photographic Developers and Development."

Manchester Pharmaceutical Association. An extraordinary meeting will be held, when the Federation resolutions will be discussed.

Society of Chemical Industry (Nottingham Section), at the Midland Hotel, Derby, at 7 p.m. "Notes on the Arachidic and Lignoceric Acids of Earthnut-oil and their Estimation," by Mr. L. Archbutt.

Western Chemists' Association (of London). A special general meeting will be held at the Westbourne Restaurant, at 9 p.m., to consider the suggested "Compulsory Poison-regulations."

Thursday, December 1.

Liverpool Pharmaceutical Students' Society, at 6 Sandon Terrace, Upper Duke Street. Paper by Mr. T. S. Wokes on "Some Dispensing-problems," and discussion on the new B.P.

Chemists' Assistants' Association, 73 Newman Street, W., at 9 p.m. Demonstration of Röntgen-rays.

School of Pharmacy Football Club smoking-concert in the Crown Room, Holborn Restaurant, at 8 p.m. Professor Greenish will occupy the chair. Tickets, 1s. 6d. each, can be obtained of Mr. J. Evans, 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C.

Midland Pharmaceutical Association, Birmingham, at 8.30 p.m. Lecture at Mason University College (Medical Theatre) on "The Practical Application of the x-rays," by Dr. Hall-Edwards.

Chemical Society, Burlington House, W., at 8 p.m. "The Oxidation of Polyhydric Alcohols in Presence of Iron," by Mr. H. J. H. Fenton and Mr. H. Jackson.

Friday, December 2

Aberdeen Junior Chemists' Association, North Silver Street Hall, at 9.30 p.m. "The Revenge of the Man in the Moon," with limelight illustrations, by Mr. J. C. Barnett.

Cambridge Pharmaceutical Association. Smoking-concert at Dale's Assembly Rooms.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (North British Branch). The arrangements for the evening meeting on December 21 include "Notes on Lime as a Preservative for Chloroform," by Mr. D. Brown; "Criticism of some Chemical Matters in the new Pharmacopoeia," by Dr. L. Dobbin; and "Volumetric Operations of the new Pharmacopoeia," by Mr. J. Lothian.